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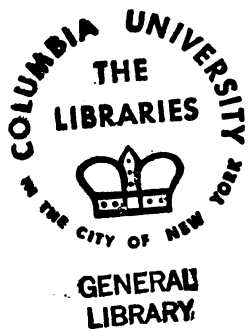
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Compendium of the pr



A
COMPENDIUM
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER
OF
Royal Arch Masons,
OF THE UNITED STATES,

From the 24th day of October, 1797, to the 2nd Tuesday of September 1856.

COMPILED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER,

By B.B. FRENCH,

GENERAL GRAND SECRETARY.

BALTIMORE:
PRINTED BY JOSEPH ROBINSON.

1859.

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AIRMAIL
REGISTERED
MAIL

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INTRODUCTION.

At the Session of the G. G. Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States, at Hartford, in September 1856, the following proceedings took place, viz. :

On motion of Companion Fellows,

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a compendium of the proceedings of this General Grand Chapter from its first organization to the present convocation, and that the same be published under the superintendence of the G. G. High Priest and the G. G. Secretary, and sold at its lowest remunerative price.

"Companions Gilman, French, and Courtney were appointed the committee."

In accordance with this resolution, the General Grand Secretary proceeded, under instructions from the G. G. High Priest, Charles Gilman, Esq., to prepare the Compendium, and it was completed in the Autumn of 1858. It was submitted to Companions Gilman and Courtney as soon after its completion as circumstances would permit, and returned with their approval, and a written order from the G. G. High Priest, for its publication.

The Compiler has striven to give every fact that he deemed of importance to Royal Arch Masons and Royal Arch Masonry.

As the proceedings up to the sixth regular meeting in 1826 were out of print, he has given them very nearly in full.

He has sought to so arrange the Constitutions as to show every action of the G. G. Chapter on them.

He has omitted only such action as was for the time being, or local, and which seemed to be of no interest at the present time.

He now submits the work with the approbation of the G. G. High Priest, and hopes it may prove acceptable to the Craft.

B. B. FRENCH,

General Grand Secretary.

CITY OF WASHINGTON, *June 1st*, 1859.

The undersigned members of the Committee, with Companion French, hereby give our approval of the Compendium prepared by him.

CHARLES GILMAN,

E. S. COURTNEY:

BALTIMORE, *May*, 1859.

A COMPENDIUM, &c.

FIRST MEETING OF A CONVENTION TO FORM A GRAND CHAPTER. 1797.

“At a Convention of Committees from the following Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, viz : St. Andrew’s Chapter, Boston; Temple Chapter, Albany; and Newburyport Chapter; holden at Mason’s Hall, Boston, Massachusetts, Wednesday, 24th October, 1797:

“Present—M. E. Benjamin Hurd, Jr., H. P., of St. Andrew’s Chapter; E. John Soley, Jr., K., of St. Andrew’s Chapter; William Wourt, Sec., of St. Andrew’s Chapter; M. E. Thomas S. Webb, H. P., of Temple Chapter, Albany; John Hanmer, Scribe, of Temple Chapter, Albany; E. Jonathan Gage, P. K., of Newburyport Chapter; E. Joshua Greenleaf, K., of Newburyport Chapter.

“The Most Excellent Thomas Smith Webb, was chosen Chairman, and William Wourt, Scribe.”

The Companions above named being regular Royal Arch Masons, having produced the credentials of their appointment by the several Chapters affixed to their names, as committees from said Chapters, to meet with any or every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, within the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York, or with any Committee duly appointed by any or all of said Chapters, and deliberate on the propriety and expediency of erecting a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, within the said States: upon motion being made and seconded, *Resolved unanimously*, that the

following Circular Letter be forwarded to each of the Chapters within the said States, and that Companions Benjamin Hurd, Jr., of St. Andrew's Chapter, Boston; Thomas S. Webb, of Temple Chapter, Albany; and Jonathan Gage, of Newburyport Chapter, be and they and either of them hereby are appointed a Committee for the purpose of transmitting copies of these proceedings and receiving Communications and answers from said Chapters.

(C I R C U L A R .)

Companions:

From time immemorial, we find that Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons have been established wherever Masonry has flourished for the purpose of granting warrants for the erecting private Lodges, as well as for the establishment of certain general rules and regulations for the government of the same.

It is an opinion generally received, and we think well authenticated, that no Grand Lodge of Master Masons can claim or exercise authority over any Convention or Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, nor can any Chapter, although of standing immemorial, exercise the authority of a Grand Chapter. We therefore think it highly expedient for the regular government of all Chapters within the said States, who exercise the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masons, and to prevent irregularities in the propagation and use of those rights and privileges, that there should be a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons established within those States. And whereas this Convention has received official information from our companions at Philadelphia, that the several Chapters within their vicinity have recently assembled and established a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for their government. In conformity to their example, we think it our duty to recommend to the several Chapters within the said States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York, to unite and form a Grand Chapter for the said States.

The local situation of the States before mentioned, the easy and frequent intercourse between their several principal towns and cities, as well as the similarity of habits, manners and customs, as citizens and as Masons, which prevail throughout the said States, induce us to believe that a union of all the Chapters therein in one Grand Chapter, will have the most useful, lasting and happy effects in the uniform distribution and propagation of the sublime degrees of Masonry. They therefore take liberty of recommending to the consideration of your Most Excellent Chapter, the propriety of appointing one or more delegate or delegates to represent your Chapter at a meeting of the several Chapters before mentioned, to be holden at the City of Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, on the fourth Wednesday of January next ensuing, investing them with full power and authority, in conjunction with the other Delegates, to form and open a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and to establish a Constitution for the government and regulation of all the Chapters that now are or may be hereafter erected within the said States.

(Signed,)

BENJAMIN HURD, Jr.,

JOHN SOLKY, Jr.,

WILLIAM WOART,

Committee of St. Andrew's Chapter, Boston.

JONATHAN GAGE,

JOSHUA GREENLEAF, Jr.

Committee of Newburyport Chapter.

THOMAS S. WEBB,

JOHN HANMER,

Committee of Temple Chapter, Albany.

A true Record of the doings of this Convention of Committees,
24th October, 1797.

(Attest,)

WILLIAM WOART, *Scribe.*

SECOND MEETING OF A CONVENTION TO FORM A GRAND
CHAPTER. 1798.

At a Convention of Delegates, appointed by the several Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, affixed to their respective names, assembled at the City of Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, on the 24th day of January, A. L. 5798, agreeably to the recommendation of a Convention of Committees assembled at Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, in October, 1797:

PRESENT :

Instituted 5769.—*Delegates St. Andrew's Chapter, Boston, Mass.*

BENJAMIN HURD, Jr., - - - - *M. E. H. P.*

HENRY FOWLE, - - - - *Scribe.*

WILLIAM WOART, - - - - *Sec'ry.*

Instituted 5790—*King Cyrus Chapter, Newburyport, Mass.*

JOSHUA GREENLEAF, Jr., - - - - *E. K.*

JONATHAN GAGE, - - - - *P. K.*

Instituted 5793—*Providence Chapter, No. 2, Providence, R. I.*

Rev. ABRAHAM LYNSEN CLARKE, - - *M. E. H. P.*

WILLIAM WILKINSON, - - - - *S.*

Instituted 5794—*Solomon Chapter, Derby, Connecticut.*

DANIEL HOLBRQOK.

Instituted 5796—*Franklin Chapter, No. 4, Norwich, Connecticut.*

GURDON LATHROP.

Instituted 5796—*Franklin Chapter, No. 6, New Haven, Connecticut.*

PETER JOHNSTON, - - - - *M. E. H. P.*

Instituted 5796.—*Hudson Chapter, Hudson, New York.*

SAMUEL EDMONDS, Jr., - - - - *M. E. H. P.*

JOHN C. TEN BROECK.

M. E. Companion BENJAMIN HURD, Jr., was elected President.

WILLIAM WOART,

Scribe to the Convention.

The Delegates above named produced their several credentials of their appointment by the several Chapters affixed to their respective names, which, being read and approved, the Convention

Resolved unanimously, That the Delegates who compose this Convention being invested with ample powers, will establish a Grand Royal Arch Chapter, for the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York, to be denominated the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America.

Resolved, That Companions Rev. Abm. L. Clark, H. P. of Providence Chapter, and Jona. Gage, P. K., King Cyrus' Chapter, be and they hereby are appointed a committee to confer with Most Worshipful Br. Judd, on the subject of an Association, said to be entered into, by the several Chapters in the State of Connecticut.

Resolved, That Companions William Woart, of St. Andrew's Chapter, and Jonathan Gage, of King Cyrus' Chapter, be a committee to confer with Stephen Titus Hosmer, Esq., of Middletown, on the same subject.

Resolved, That Companions Rev. Abm. L. Clarke, and Saml. Edmonds, be a committee to confer with Ephraim Kerby, Esq., on the same subject.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow, the 25th inst., at this place.

A true record of the proceedings of this day.

(Attest,)

WM. WOART,

Scribe to the Convention.

January, 25th inst., 5798. The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

PRESENT AS BEFORE.

Delegate Temple Chapter, Albany, New York.

THOMAS S. WEBB, - - - - P. H. P.

Horeb Chapter, Whitestown, New York.

JEDEDIAH SAUGER, Esq., - - - E. K.

produced the credentials of their appointment, as Delegates for the Chapters affixed to their names, which were read and approved.

Resolved, Upon report of the several committees appointed for that purpose, that Companions Judd, Hosmer and Kirby, and such of their companions, members of a Convention of Committees from several Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, in the State of Connecticut, as they may wish present, be invited to attend the sitting of this Convention, in order to establish a perfect understanding between the two Conventions, and that Companions Gage and Woart, be a committed to wait on them, with a copy of the above vote.

Resolved, That Companions Rev. Abraham L. Clarke, H. P., of Providence Chapter, Samuel Edmonds, H. P. of Hudson Chapter, and William Woart, Secretary of St. Andrew's Chapter, be and they are hereby appointed, a committee to draft and report a form of a Constitution, for the government of said Chapter.

Adjourned until to-morrow, the 26th inst.

A true record of the proceedings of the Convention, this day.

(Attest,)

WILLIAM WOART, *Scribe.*

January 26th, 5798. The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

PRESENT AS BEFORE.

Resolved, That the following form of a Constitution, as reported by the Committee, be and it is hereby adopted.

CONSTITUTION.

“Whereas, the several Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York, are destitute of any supreme head or superintending power ; and whereas, from time immemorial, we find Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons have been established wherever Masonry has flourished, for the purpose of granting warrants for the institution of private Lodges, as well as for the establishment of certain general rules and regulations for the government of the same :

“And whereas, it is an opinion generally received, and well authenticated, that no Grand Lodge of Master Masons can claim or exercise authority over any Constitution or Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, nor any Chapter, although of standing immemorial, exercise the authority of a Grand Chapter. And whereas, it is highly expedient for the regular government of all Chapters within the said States, who exercise the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masons, and to prevent irregularities in the diffusion and use of those rights and privileges, that there should be a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons established within said States.

“Therefore, we, the delegates of St. Andrew’s Chapter, Boston ; King Cyrus’s Chapter, Newburyport ; Providence Chapter, Providence ; Solomon Chapter, Derby ; Franklin Chapter, No. 4, Norwich ; Franklin Chapter, No. 6, New Haven ; Temple Chapter, Albany ; Hudson Chapter, Hudson ; and Horeb Chapter, Whitestown ; to establish order and uniformity, to promote love and charity among Masons, and render more general and extensive the principles of benevolence and philanthropy, do ordain and establish this as a Constitution for a Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the States aforesaid, to be denominated the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America.

SECTION 1. “The Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall consist of a Grand High Priest, a Grand King, a Grand Scribe, a Grand Secretary, a Grand Chaplain, a Grand Treasurer, a Grand Mar-

shal, and likewise of the Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the several Deputy Grand Chapters hereinafter enumerated, for the time being, and of the Past Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the said Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and the said enumerated officers shall be the only members and voters of the said Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

SEC. 2. "There shall be in each of the States, within the jurisdiction of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, a Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapter, which shall consist of a Deputy Grand High Priest, King and Scribe, Secretary, Chaplain, Treasurer, Marshal, and likewise of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the time being, of the respective Chapters in the States over which it presides, and of the Past Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the said Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and the said enumerated officers shall be the only members and voters of the said Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

SEC. 3. "When the Deputy Grand High Priest, King or Scribe, of any of the Deputy Grand Chapters in this jurisdiction, cannot personally attend the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, or when the High Priest, King or Scribe of any Chapter cannot personally attend the Deputy Grand Chapter, they shall severally have the authority to constitute a proxy, which proxy shall have the same powers as his constituent.

SEC. 4. "The first Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall be holden in the City of Middletown, in the State of Connecticut, on the third Wednesday of September next ; and afterwards once in every two years at such place as the Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall direct.

SEC. 5. "The officers of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall be elected by ballot, once in every two years, by the members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter present ; a majority of votes shall be necessary to constitute a choice ; and proxies present shall be accounted members ; and the officers elected at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be the officers of said Grand Royal Arch Chapter to continue in office until the meeting of the

Grand Royal Arch Chapter, at the City of Middletown, on the third Wednesday of September next, when a new election of officers shall take place.

SEC. 6. "The High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the several Chapters within the States aforesaid, shall meet in manner following, viz: For Massachusetts, in Boston, and Rhode Island, at Providence, on the Tuesday following the second Monday of March next; for Connecticut, at Hartford, on the third Wednesday of May next; for New York, at Albany, on the second Tuesday of March next; who shall severally elect, by ballot, their Deputy Grand Officers, as hereinbefore enumerated.

SEC. 7. "The Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapters shall severally be holden annually, at such times and places as they shall respectively direct; and the Deputy Grand High Priests, respectively, for the time being, may, at any time, call a special Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapter, to meet at such place as they shall, severally, think proper.

SEC. 8. "The officers of the Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapters shall be chosen annually (after said first choice) by ballot, at such time and place as they shall respectively appoint, by the members of the Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapter present; a majority of votes shall be necessary to constitute a choice, and proxies present shall be accounted members.

SEC. 9. "In case of the vacancy of any office, by reason of the absence of the proper officer, the next officer in rank shall act in his place and stead; and whenever it becomes necessary that the Grand High Priest, in the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, or the Deputy Grand High Priest, in the Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapters, respectively, or first officer, for the time being, shall fill any vacancy by nomination.

SEC. 10. "The Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapters shall (subject to the provisions hereafter mentioned) have the government and superintendence of the several Royal Arch Chapters, and of the Lodges of Most Excellent Masters, Past Masters, and Mark Master Masons, within their respective jurisdictions; and

shall have power, by patent, under their seal, and the sign manual of the Deputy Grand High Priest, for the time being, attested by their Secretary, to constitute new Royal Arch Chapters and Lodges of Most Excellent, Past Masters, and Mark Master Mason's degrees; to establish an uniform mode of working—to assign the limits of the Royal Arch Chapters respectively—and to superintend and regulate the general police of Royal Arch Masonry within their respective jurisdictions, according to the ancient usages and customs of Royal Arch Masonry.

SEC. 11. "The several Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapters, subject to the provisions herein mentioned, shall have power to make such By-Laws for their own government, as they may think proper.

SEC. 12. "The Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapters, upon granting a charter to a newly constituted Chapter or Lodge, within their jurisdictions, may require such reasonable fees as by the By-Laws of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall be established.

SEC. 13. "That until the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, or the Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapters, in the respective States, shall order otherwise, the regulations heretofore adopted by the Chapters in said States respectively be considered obligatory on them.

SEC. 14. "The Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall exclusively have the power of hearing and determining all controversies between the Chapters within their jurisdiction, and of making such rules and regulations as they shall deem necessary to carry this Constitution into effect.

SEC. 15. "The Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall have the general superintendence of the Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapters respectively, with the right of appellate jurisdiction over all their proceedings and determinations, with power to affirm or disannul them.

SEC. 16. "That for the purpose of raising the requisite funds of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and furthering the necessary and important objects of its institution, it shall have power to re-

quire from the several Chapters within its jurisdiction, such reasonable proportion of sums, by them respectively received for the advancement and exaltation of candidates, as by its ordinances shall be hereafter appointed.

SEC. 17. "That all Chapters within the States aforesaid, not now represented in this Convention, may at any time hereafter, on ratifying this Constitution, be admitted and entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Chapters now represented.

SEC. 18. "That until there shall be a Deputy Grand Chapter established within the States of Vermont and New Hampshire, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall have the sole power of granting charters for opening Chapters within the said States.

SEC. 19. "That it shall be competent for the Grand Royal Arch Chapter at any time hereafter, on concurrence of two-thirds of its members, to revise, amend, and alter this Constitution at pleasure."

Resolved, That a Circular Letter, signed by the President, and countersigned by the Scribe to this Convention, be written to the several Chapters within the States above mentioned not represented in this Convention, expressive of our wishes that they may unite with us in carrying this Constitution into effect,—and that Companions Thomas S. Webb, Samuel Edmonds, William Woart and William Wilkinson, be and they are hereby appointed a committee for that purpose.

Resolved, That five hundred copies of the Constitution and Journals of the Convention be printed, and that Companions Webb, Edmonds, Woart and Wilkinson, be a Committee to superintend the Printing, and to forward twenty copies to each Chapter under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That this Convention now proceed agreeably to the Constitution, to the election of the several officers of the Grand Chapter by ballot, which being accordingly done, the following companions were declared to be duly elected to the several offices affixed to their respective names—the Convention voting by Chapters—each Chapter entitled to one vote and no more, viz. :

Ephraim Kirby, Esq., of Litchfield, Connecticut, Grand High Priest ; Benjamin Hurd, Jr., of Charlestown, Massachusetts, Grand King ; Thomas S. Webb, of Albany, New York, Grand Scribe ; William Woart, of Boston, Massachusetts, Grand Secretary ; Rev. Abraham Lynsen Clarke, of Providence, Grand Chaplain ; Stephen Titus Hosmer, of Middletown, Connecticut, Grand Treasurer ; Gurdon Lathrop, of Norwich, Connecticut, Grand Marshal.

Most Excellent Companion Hurd, being the oldest High Priest present, then proceeded to install the Grand High Priest elect, who thereupon installed the other officers, agreeably to ancient usage and custom.

Adjourned to meet again, 27th inst.

(Attest,)

WM. WOART, *Scribe*.

January 27th, 5798. The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

PRESENT AS BEFORE.

Resolved, That the several Deputy Grand Chapters within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, shall, for every warrant of Constitution granted for the institution of new Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, require the sum of forty dollars.

Resolved, That Companions Peter Johnson and Daniel Hubbard, be and they are hereby appointed a Committee to wait on Companion S. T. Hosmer, Esq., and inform him of his appointment to the office of Grand Treasurer, and solicit his acceptance thereof.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to M. E. Companion Hurd, President, for the important services he has rendered.

CHARGES ASSESSED ON THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS :

St. Andrew's Chapter, Boston,	10s. 6d.	18s.	£1 8s. 6d.
King Cyrus' Chapter, Newbury-			
port,	10s. 6d.	18s.	£1 8s. 6d.
Providence Chapter, Providence,	10s. 6d.	18s.	£1 8s. 6d.
Solomon Chapter, Derby, Conn.,	10s. 6d.	18s.	£1 8s. 6d.
Franklin Chapter, No. 6, New			
Haven, Connecticut,	10s. 6d.	18s.	£1 8s. 6d.
Franklin Chapter, No. 4, Norwich,			
Connecticut,	10s. 6d.	18s.	£1 8s. 6d.
Temple Chapter, Albany, N. Y.,	10s. 6d.	18s.	£1 8s. 6d.
Hudson Chapter, Hudson, N. Y.	10s. 6d.	18s.	£1 8s. 6d.
Horeb Chapter, Whitestown, N. Y.	10s. 6d.	18s.	£1 8s. 6d.
			£12 16s. 6d.
Expenses of the House, Secretary, &c.,			4 14s. 6d.
Balance,			£8 2s. 0d.

Hartford, *January 27th, 5798.* Then received of Wm. Woart, Grand Secretary of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America, the sum of eight pounds, two shillings.—\$27.

Grand Treasurer.

(Attest,)

WM. WOART, *Grand Secretary.*

FIRST MEETING OF THE GRAND CHAPTER, AFTER ITS
ORGANIZATION, 1798.

At a meeting of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America, held in the City of Middletown, in the State of Connecticut, on the third Wednesday of September, 5798, agreeably to the Constitution, *for the choice of Officers :*

PRESENT :

Companions William Woart, General Grand Secretary ; Rev. Abraham L. Clarke, General Grand Chaplain ; Excellent Benj.

Hurd, jr., General Grand King, was represented by Companion Henry Fowle, of St. Andrew's Chapter, Massachusetts, his proxy ; Excellent James Harrison, Deputy Grand Scribe, Massachusetts, represented by Companion Samuel Billings, his proxy ; Excellent Seth Wheaton, Deputy Grand High Priest, Excellent Gershom Jones, Deputy Grand King, and Samuel Eddy, Deputy Grand Scribe, Deputy Grand Chapter, Rhode Island, represented by Excellent Companion, Rev. Abraham Lynsen Clarke, their proxy.

Agreeably to Constitution, the Grand Chapter proceeded to the choice of Officers, when on sorting and counting the votes, the old officers were all declared re-elected.

Resolved, That this meeting be, and the same hereby is adjourned to the second Wednesday of January next, then to meet at Providence, in the State of Rhode Island.

(Attest,)

WM. WOART, *Grand Secretary*.

SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE GRAND CHAPTER, 1799.

At a meeting of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America, held at Providence, in the State of Rhode Island, on the second Wednesday of January, 1799, agreeably to adjournment :

PRESENT :

Excellent Benj. Hurd, jr.,	-	-	-	G. H. P., pro tem.
" Thomas S. Webb,	-	-	-	G. K., pro tem.
" James Harrison,	-	-	-	G. S., pro tem.
" Rev. Abraham L. Clarke,	-	-	-	G. CHAPLAIN.
" William Woart, G. Secretary,	-	-	-	by J. Harrison, his proxy.

MASSACHUSETTS GRAND CHAPTER.

Excellent Companion Benj. Hurd,	-	-	-	D. G. H. P.
" " James Harrison,	-	-	-	D. G. S.

RHODE ISLAND GRAND CHAPTER.

Excellent Companion Gershom Jones,	-	-	-	D. G. K.
“ “ Samuel Eddy,	-	-	-	D. G. S.

NEW YORK GRAND CHAPTER.

Excellent Comp. DeWitt Clinton, Esq.,	-	-	D. G. H. P.
“ “ Thomas Frothingham,	-	-	D. G. K.
“ “ Jedediah Sanger,	-	-	D. G. S.

Voted, that Benjamin Hurd, Jr., Thomas S. Webb, and James Harrison, be a committee to revise the Constitution, and report such alterations and amendments thereto, as they shall find necessary to be made.

Voted, that Benj. Hurd, Jr., Thos. S. Webb, and Jas. Harrison, be a committee to report such Rules of Order as may be deemed necessary for the government of the Grand Chapter while at business.

Voted, to adjourn until to morrow morning, nine o'clock.

At a meeting of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, agreeably to adjournment, January 10th, 5799 :

PRESENT :

Most Excellent Benj. Hurd, jr.,	-	-	G. H. P., pro tem.
“ Thomas S. Webb,	-	-	G. K.
“ James Harrison,	-	-	G. S.
“ Rev. Abraham L. Clarke,	-	-	G. C.
“ William Woart, Grand Secretary, by E. Comp. James Harrison, his proxy.			

MASSACHUSETTS.

By Excellent Benj. Hurd, Jr.,	-	-	-	D. G. H. P.
“ James Harrison,	-	-	-	D. G. S.

RHODE ISLAND.

By Excellent S. Wheaton,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. P.
“ Gershom Jones,	-	-	-	-	D. G. K.
“ Samuel Eddy,	-	-	-	-	D. G. S.

NEW YORK.

By Excellent De Witt Clinton,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. P.
“ Thomas Frothingham,	-	-	-	-	D. G. K.
“ Jedediah Sanger,	-	-	-	-	D. G. S.

E. Companion Thomas S. Webb, Chairman of the Committee appointed to prepare Rules of Order for the government of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

RULES OF ORDER.

ARTICLE 1. No member of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter can be permitted to take a seat in such until he has presented his credentials to the acceptance of the Grand Officers.

ART. 2. No member shall be permitted to depart the Grand Chapter without leave, nor without giving the customary salutes.

ART. 3. Every member who speaks on any subject, shall rise and respectfully salute the chair in Masonic form.

ART. 4. No member shall be permitted to speak more than twice to the same question, without permission from the Presiding Officer.

ART. 5. Every motion made and seconded shall be committed to writing, and handed to the presiding officer, before the question is put.

Companion Thomas S. Webb, Chairman of the Committee, appointed to revise the Constitution, reported the following as altered and amended.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. There shall be a General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the six Northern States of America, enumerated in the preamble,* which shall be holden as is hereinafter directed, and shall consist of a General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, General Grand Scribe, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain and Marshal, and likewise of the several Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes for the time being, of the several Grand Chapters hereinafter enumerated, and of the Past General Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the said General Grand Chapter; and the said enumerated officers, or their proxies, shall be the only members and voters in the said General Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

SEC. 2. The General Grand Officers shall be elected by ballot on the second Thursday in January, A. D., 1799, and in every seventh year thereafter; for which, and other purposes, the General Grand Chapter shall meet, septennially, in the City of Middletown, in the State of Connecticut, on the second Thursday in January.

SEC. 3. A special meeting of the General Grand Chapter shall be called whenever it may be required by a majority of the Grand Chapters of the Northern States aforesaid; provided such requisition be made known in writing, by the said Grand Chapters respectively, to the General Grand High Priest, King or Scribe, of the Northern States. And it shall be the duty of the said General Officers, and they are each of them, severally authorized, empowered and directed, upon receiving official notice of such requisition from a majority of the Grand Chapters aforesaid, to appoint a time and place of meeting, and notify each of the said Grand Chapters thereof accordingly.

SEC. 4. It shall be incumbent on the General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, severally to improve and perfect themselves in the sublime arts, and work

* See Preamble to the Constitution of 1798, page 11.

of Mark Masters, Past Masters, Most Excellent Masters, and Royal Arch Masons ; to make themselves masters of the several Masonic Lectures and Ancient Charges ; to consult with each other, and with the Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the several States aforesaid, for the purpose of adopting measures suitable and proper for diffusing a knowledge of the said Lectures and Charges, and an uniform mode of *working*, in the several Chapters and Lodges throughout this jurisdiction; and the better to effect this laudable purpose, the aforesaid General Grand Officers are severally hereby authorized and empowered to visit and preside in any and every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Lodge of Most Excellent, Past or Mark Master Masons, throughout the said States, and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the fraternity may require, always adhering to the ancient landmarks of the Order.

SEC. 5. In all cases of the absence of any officer from any body of Masons, instituted or holden by virtue of this Constitution, the officer next in rank shall succeed his superior ; unless through courtesy said officer should decline in favor of a past superior officer present. And in case of the absence of all the officers from any legal meeting of either of the bodies aforesaid, the members present according to seniority and abilities, shall fill the several offices.

SEC. 6. In every Chapter or Lodge of Masons, instituted or holden by virtue of this Constitution, all questions (except upon the admission of members or candidates) shall be determined by a majority of votes ; the presiding officer for the time being, being entitled to vote, if a member ; and in case the votes should at any time be equally divided, the presiding officer as aforesaid, shall give the casting vote.

SEC. 7. The General Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall be competent (on concurrence of two-thirds of its members present) at any time hereafter, to revise, amend and alter this Constitution.

ARTICLE II.

OF THE STATE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

SECTION 1. The several Deputy Grand Chapters of the States before mentioned, shall in future be styled, *State Grand Chapters*; they shall severally consist of a Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chaplain, and Grand Marshal, and likewise of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes for the time being, of the several Chapters over which they shall respectively preside, and of the Past Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the said Grand Chapters; and the said enumerated officers (or their proxies) shall be the only members and voters in the said Grand Chapters respectively.

SEC. 2. The State Grand Chapters shall severally be holden at least once in every year, at such times and places as they shall respectively direct; and the Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priests respectively, for the time being, may at any time, call a special meeting, to be holden at such place as they shall severally think proper to appoint.

SEC. 3. The officers of the State Grand Chapters shall be chosen annually, by ballot, at such a time and place, as the said Grand Chapters shall respectively direct.

SEC. 4. The several State Grand Chapters (subject to the provisions of this Constitution) shall have the sole government and superintendence, of the several Royal Arch Chapters, and Lodges of Most Excellent, Past and Mark Master Masons; to assign their limits, and settle controversies that may happen between them, within their respective jurisdictions; and shall have power, under their respective seals, and the sign manual of their respective Grand or Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes (or their legal proxies) attested by their respective Secretaries, to constitute new Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, and Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons, within their respective jurisdictions.

SEC. 5. The Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests severally, shall have the power and authority, whenever they shall deem it expedient, (during the recess of the Grand Chapter of which they are members) to grant Letters of Dispensation, under their respective hands, and private seals, to a competent number of petitioners (possessing the constitutional qualifications) empowering them to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Lodge of Most Excellent, Past and Mark Master Masons, for a certain specified term of time; provided, that the said term of time shall not extend beyond the next meeting of the Grand Chapter of the State in which such dispensation shall be granted; and provided further, that the same fees as are required by this Constitution for warrants, shall be first deposited in the hands of the Grand Treasurer. And in all cases of such dispensations, the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priests respectively, who may grant the same, shall make report thereof, at the next stated meeting of the Grand Chapter of their respective jurisdictions, when the said Grand Chapters, respectively, may either continue or recall the said dispensations, or may grant the petitioners a warrant of Constitution:—And in case a warrant shall be granted, the fees first deposited, shall be credited in payment for the same; but if a warrant should not be granted, nor the dispensation continued, the said fees shall be refunded to the petitioners, excepting only such part thereof as shall have been actually expended by means of their application.

SEC. 6. No warrant for holding a new Chapter of Royal Arch, Most Excellent, Past and Mark Master Masons, shall be granted for a less sum than forty dollars; nor shall any warrant for holding a Mark Master Mason's Lodge separately, be granted for a less sum than ten dollars; and the said fees respectively, shall be advanced and paid into the Grand Treasury before a warrant can be issued.

SEC. 7. No warrant shall be granted, for instituting Lodges of Most Excellent or Past Masters, independent of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

SEC. 8. The Grand Chapters severally, shall have power to require from the several Chapters and Lodges under their respec-

tive jurisdictions, such reasonable proportion of sums, received by them for the exaltation or advancement of candidates, and such certain annual sums from their respective members, as by their ordinances or regulations shall hereafter be appointed ; all which said sums or dues shall be made good, and paid annually, by the said Chapters and Lodges respectively, into the Grand Treasury of the Grand Chapter under which they hold their authority, on or before the first day of the respective annual meetings of the said Grand Chapters.

SEC. 9. Until there shall be a regular Grand Royal Arch Chapter established within the State of Vermont, the Grand Chapter of the State of New York, shall have the sole power and privilege of granting warrants for the institution of Royal Arch Chapters and Lodges of Most Excellent Masters, Past Masters and Mark Master Masons, throughout the said State. And until there shall be a regular Grand Royal Arch Chapter established within the State of New Hampshire, the Grand Chapter of the State of Massachusetts shall have the sole power and privilege of granting warrants for the institution of Royal Arch Chapters and Lodges of Most Excellent Masters, Past and Mark Master Masons throughout the said State ; provided that the said warrants shall be granted on the same principles and conditions as those that are granted for the States in which the said Grand Chapters shall respectively be holden.

SEC. 10. No warrant for the institution of a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons shall be granted, except upon the petition of nine regular Royal Arch Masons ; which petition shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Chapter nearest to the place where the new Chapter is intended to be opened, vouching for the moral characters and Masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending to the Grand Chapters under whose authority they act, to grant their prayer. And no warrant for the institution of a Lodge of Mark Master Masons shall be granted, except upon the petition of (at least) five regular Mark Master Masons, accompanied by vouchers from the nearest Lodge of that degree, similar to those required upon the institution of a Chapter.

SEC. 11. The several Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the time being, of the several State Grand Chapters, are bound to the performance of the same duties, and are invested with the same powers and prerogatives, throughout their respective jurisdictions, as are prescribed to the General Grand Officers, in the 4th Section, 1st Article of this Constitution.

SEC. 12. The jurisdiction of the several State Grand Chapters, shall not extend beyond the limits of the State in which they shall respectively be holden ; excepting only the instances mentioned in the 9th Section, II Article of this constitution.

ARTICLE III.

OF THE SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS AND LODGES.

SECTION 1. All legally constituted assemblies of Royal Arch Masons are called *Chapters* ; all regular bodies of Mark Masters, Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters, are called *Lodges*. Every Chapter ought to assemble for work, at least once in every three months ; and must consist of a High Priest, King, Scribe, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, three Grand Masters, Secretary, Treasurer, and as many members as may be found convenient for working to advantage.

SEC. 2. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Lodge of Mark Master Masons, throughout this jurisdiction, shall have a Warrant of Constitution, from the Grand Chapter of the State in which they may respectively be holden : And no Chapter or Lodge shall be deemed legal without such warrant ; and Masonic communication (either public or private) is hereby interdicted and forbidden, between any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, or any member of either of them, and any Chapter, Lodge or assembly, that may be so illegally formed, opened or holden, without such warrant, or any or either of their members, or any person exalted, or advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge. But nothing in this Section shall be construed to affect any Chapter or Lodge which was established before the adoption of the Royal

Arch Constitution, at Hartford, (on the 27th day of January, A. D., 1798) until after the first day of January, A. D., one thousand eight hundred.

SEC. 3. Whenever a warrant is issued for instituting a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, with a power in said warrant to open and hold a Lodge of Most Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons, the High Priest, King and Scribe for the time being, of such Chapter, shall be the Master and Wardens in said Lodges, according to seniority.

SEC. 4. All applications for the exaltation or advancement of candidates, in any Chapter or Lodge, under this jurisdiction, shall lie over, at least one meeting, for the consideration of the members.

SEC. 5. No Mason shall be a member of two separate and distinct bodies, of the same denomination, at one and the same time.

SEC. 6. No Chapter shall be removed, without the knowledge of the High Priest, nor any motion made for that purpose in his absence; but if the High Priest be present, and a motion is made and seconded, for removing the Chapter, to some more convenient place (within the limits prescribed in their warrant) the High Priest shall forthwith cause notifications to be issued, to all the members, informing them of the motion for removal, and of the time and place when the question is to be determined; which notice shall be issued at least ten days previous to the appointed meeting. But if the High Priest (after motion duly made and seconded as aforesaid) should refuse or neglect to cause the notices to be issued as aforesaid, the officer next in rank, who may be present at the next regular meeting following, (upon motion made and seconded for that purpose) may in like manner issue the said notices.

SEC. 7. All Mark Master Masons Lodges shall be regulated, in cases of Removal, by the same rules as are prescribed in the foregoing Section for the removal of Chapters.

SEC. 8. The High Priest, and other officers, of every Chapter, and the officers of every Lodge of Mark Master Masons, shall be chosen annually, by ballot.

SEC. 9. The High Priest of every Chapter, has it in special charge, as appertaining to his office, duty and dignity, to see that the By-laws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution, and the General Regulations of the Grand Chapter, be duly observed ; that all the other officers of his Chapter, perform the duties of their respective offices faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to their companions ; that true and exact records be kept of all the proceedings of the Chapter by the Secretary ; that the Treasurer keep and render exact and just accounts of all the monies belonging to the Chapter ; that regular returns be made by the Secretary, annually, to the Grand Chapter of all admissions of candidates or members ; and that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter, be regularly and punctually paid. He has the special care and charge of the warrant of his Chapter. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence which in his judgment may require their meeting, and he is to fill the Chair when present. It is likewise his duty, together with his King and Scribe to attend the meetings of the Grand Chapter (when duly summoned by the Grand Secretary) either in person, or by proxy.

SEC. 10. For the preservation of secrecy and good harmony, and in order that due decorum may be observed while the Chapter is engaged in business, a worthy Royal Arch Mason is to be appointed from time to time for Tyling the Chapter. His duty is fixed by custom, and known in all regular Chapters. He may be elected annually, but is to continue in office only during good behaviour, and is to be paid for his services.

SEC. 11. All Lodges of Mark Master Masons are bound to observe the two preceding articles, as far as they can be applied to the Government of a *Lodge*.

SEC. 12. No Chapter shall confer the degrees of Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, upon any Brother, for a less sum than twenty dollars. And no Lodge of Mark Master Masons shall advance a brother to that degree for a less sum than four dollars.

Sec. 13. When either of the officers or members of the General Grand Chapter, or of any of the State Grand Chapters, cannot personally attend their respective meetings, they shall severally have the authority to constitute a proxy, which proxy shall have the same right to a seat and vote as his constituent."

ARTICLE IV.

OF CONSTITUTING NEW CHAPTERS.

SECTION 1. When a warrant of constitution is granted, by either of the Grand Chapters for constituting a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, agreeable to the 9th Section, 2d Article of this Constitution, the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest, shall appoint a day and hour for constituting the same, and installing the new officers : on the day and hour appointed, the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest, with his officers, meet in a convenient room, near to the place where the new Chapter is to be constituted. The officers of the new Chapter are to be examined by the Deputy Grand High Priest, or some Companion appointed for that purpose ; after they are approved they are to return to the Hall, and prepare for the reception of the Grand Chapter. When notice is given, by the Grand Marshal, that they are prepared, the Grand Chapter walks in procession to the Hall, when the officers appointed for the new Chapter resign their seats to the Grand Officers and take their several stations on the left ; the necessary cautions are then given from the chair, and the ceremony commences by performing an Anthem or Ode, adapted to the occasion. The officers and members of the new Chapter then form in front of the Grand High Priest.

The Deputy Grand High Priest then informs the Grand High Priest that " A number of Companions duly instructed in the sublime mysteries, being desirous of promoting the honor of the Art, have applied to the Grand Chapter for a warrant to constitute a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, which having obtained, they

are now assembled for the purpose of being constituted, and having their officers installed in due and ancient form.

The Grand High Priest then directs the Grand Secretary to read the warrant, which being done, he asks the members of the new Chapter if they still approve of the officers nominated therein ; this being signified accordingly, the Grand High Priest rises and says—

“By virtue of the high powers in me vested, I do form you, my worthy Companions, into a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons ; from henceforth you are authorized and empowered to open and hold a Lodge of Mark Masters, Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters, and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons ; and to do and perform all such things as thereunto may appertain ; conforming in all your doings to the Constitution of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States, and the General Regulations of the State Grand Chapter ; and may the God of your Fathers be with you, guide and direct you in all your doings.”

Grand Honors.

The Furniture, Jewels, Implements, Utensils, &c., belonging to the Chapter (having previously been placed in due form, covered, in the centre) are then uncovered, and the new Chapter is dedicated, in ancient manner and form, as is well described in the Most Excellent Master's degree. The Deputy Grand High Priest then presents the first officer of the new Chapter, to the Grand High Priest, saying :

“*Most Excellent Grand High Priest* : I present you my worthy Companion —— nominated in the warrant, to be installed High Priest, of this new Chapter ; I find him to be skilful in the Royal Art, and attentive to the moral precepts of our forefathers, and have therefore no doubt but he will discharge the duties of his office with fidelity.”

The Grand High Priest then addresses him as follows :

“*Most Excellent Companion* : I feel much satisfaction in performing my duty on the present occasion, by installing you into

the office of High Priest of this new Chapter. It is an office highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties annexed to it ; your reputed Masonic knowledge, however, precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties ; I shall therefore only observe, that by a frequent recurrence to the Constitution and General Regulations, and a constant practice of the several sublime Lectures and Charges, you will be best able to fulfil them ; and I am confident that the Companions who are chosen to preside with you will give strength to your endeavors, and support your exertions. I shall now propose certain questions to you, relative to the duties of your office, and to which I must request your unequivocal answer :

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, refine the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your brethren who have attained this sublime degree.

2. That you will never suffer your Chapter to be opened unless there be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons.

3. That you will never suffer either more or less than three brethren to be exalted in your Chapter at one and the same time.

4. That you will not exalt any one to this degree who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition ; or who has not made a considerable proficiency in the foregoing degrees.

5. That you will promote the general good of our Order, and on all proper occasions be ready to give and receive instructions, and particularly from the General and State Grand Officers.

6. That to the utmost of your power you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave in open Chapter with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your Companions.

7. That you will not acknowledge or have intercourse with any Chapter that does not work under a constitutional warrant or dispensation.

8. That you will not admit any visiter into your Chapter who has not been exalted in a Chapter legally constituted, without his being first formally healed.

9. That you will observe and support such By-Laws as may be made by your Chapter, in conformity to the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Chapter.

10. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the General and State Grand Officers, particularly relating to the several Lectures and Charges, and will resign the Chair to them, severally, when they may visit your Chapter.

11. That you will support and observe the Royal Arch Constitution, and the General Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, under whose authority you act.

Do you submit to all these things, and do you promise to observe and practise them faithfully?"

These questions being answered in the affirmative, the Companions all kneel in due form, and the Grand High Priest, or Grand Chaplain, repeats the following, or some other suitable prayer :

Most Holy and Glorious Lord God, the Great High Priest of Heaven and Earth,—

We approach thee with reverence, and implore thy blessing on the Companion appointed to preside over this new assembly, and now prostrate before thee ; fill his heart with thy fear, that his tongue and actions may pronounce thy glory. Make him steadfast in thy service ; grant him firmness of mind ; animate his heart and strengthen his endeavors ; may he teach thy judgments and thy laws ; and may the incense he shall put before thee, upon thine altar, prove an acceptable sacrifice unto thee. Bless him, O Lord, and bless the work of his hands. Accept us in mercy ; hear thou from Heaven, thy dwelling place, and forgive our transgressions.

Glory be to God the Father ; as it was in the beginning, &c.
Response, ' so mote it be.'

All the Companions except High Priests and Past High Priests,

are then desired to withdraw, while the new High Priest is solemnly bound to the performance of his duties; and after the performance of other necessary ceremonies, not proper to be written, they are permitted to return.

The Grand High Priest then addresses the new High Priest, as follows:

Most Excellent Companion,—In consequence of your cheerful acquiescence with the charges and regulations just recited, I now declare you duly installed and anointed High Priest of this new Chapter; not doubting your determination to support the reputation and honor of our sublime Order. I now cheerfully deliver unto you the warrant under which you are to work; and I doubt not you will govern with such good order and regularity, as will convince your Companions that their partiality has not been improperly placed.

The Grand High Priest then clothes and invests the new High Priest with the various implements and insignia of the Order, with suitable charges to each of them.

The Grand High Priest then installs the several subordinate officers in turn, and points out to them the duties appertaining to their respective offices; after which he pronounces a suitable address to the new Chapter, and closes the ceremony with the following benediction:

“The LORD be with you all; let brotherly love continue; be not forgetful to entertain strangers:—now the God of Peace, our Supreme High Priest, make you perfect to do His will. Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace and good will to men. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,” &c.

SEC. 2. At the institution of all Lodges of Mark Master Masons, under this jurisdiction, the same ceremonies as are prescribed in the foregoing Section, are to be observed, as far as they will apply to that degree.

SEC. 3. Whenever it shall be inconvenient for the Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priests respectively, to attend in person to constitute a new Chapter or Lodge, and instal the officers, they

shall severally have power and authority to appoint some worthy High Priest, or Past High Priest, to perform the necessary ceremonies.

We, the officers and members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America, do certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Constitution of the said Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America, as altered, amended and ratified, at a meeting of the said Grand Chapter, at Providence, in the State of Rhode Island, this 9th day of January, A. D. 1799, by adjournment from the city of Middletown, in the State of Connecticut. As witness our hands, the day and year above mentioned.

Benjamin Hurd,	G. KING and G. HIGH PRIEST., <i>p. t.</i>
Thomas S. Webb,	G. SCRIBE and G. KING, <i>p. t.</i>
James Harrison,	G. SCRIBE, <i>p. t.</i>
William Woart,	G. SECRETARY.
Abraham L. Clark,	G. CHAPLAIN.

Grand Chapter of Massachusetts.

Benjamin Hurd,	D. G. HIGH PRIEST.
James Harrison,	D. G. SCRIBE.

Grand Chapter of Rhode Island.

Seth Wheaton,	D. G. HIGH PRIEST.
Gershom Jones,	D. G. KING.
Samuel Eddy,	D. G. SCRIBE.

Grand Chapter of New York.

DeWitt Clinton,	D. G. HIGH PRIEST.
Thomas Frothingham,	D. G. KING.
Jedediah Sanger,	D. G. SCRIBE.

The following Companions were elected officers of the General Grand Chapter of the Northern States of America, to continue in office seven years, from the second Thursday in January, A. D. 1799.

Ephraim Kirby, Esq., of Litchfield, Conn.,
General Grand High Priest.

Benjamin Hurd, Jr., of Charlestown, Mass.,

General Grand King.

Thomas S. Webb, of Albany, N. Y.,

General Grand Scribe.

Rev. Abraham L. Clarke, of Providence, Rhode Island,

General Grand Chaplain.

William Woart, of Boston, Mass.,

General Grand Secretary.

Joseph Huntington, of Norwich, Conn.,

General Grand Treasurer.

John C. Ten Broeck, Esq., of Hudson, N. Y.,

General Grand Marshal.

(*Attest,*)

WM. WOART,

General Grand Secretary.

THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER. 1806.

MIDDLETOWN, CONN., *January 9, 1806.*

At a septennial meeting of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter, holden at the City of Middletown, agreeably to the Constitution, on the second Thursday in the month of January, A. D. 1806:

PRESENT :

Representatives from the States of Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York.

M. E. THOMAS SMITH WEBB, G. Grand Scribe, in the Chair.

E. JOHN MIX, of the Grand Chapter of Connecticut.

E. JOHN CARLISLE,

E. JOHN DAVIS,

E. NATHAN FISHER,

}

Of the Grand Chapter of R. I.

E. OZIAS FULLER, of the Grand Chapter of Vermont.

E. SAMUEL EDMUNDS, of the Grand Chapter of N. Y.

E. JOHN CARLISLE, - - - - G. SEC. *p. t.*

E. THOMAS SMITH WEBB, - - - - G. TREAS. *p. t.*

A communication from Rutland, in the State of Vermont, signed "Nichols Goddard, Grand Secretary," was presented by Companion Ozias Fuller, informing this General Grand Chapter of the formation of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter in the said State of Vermont, and subjoining a copy of their regulations, and also a certificate of the appointment of the said Ozias Fuller as proxy of the Grand High Priest of the said Grand Chapter.

A communication was also received from the Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York, containing the Report of a committee appointed by the said Grand Chapter upon the subject of the formation of a Grand Chapter in the State of Vermont.

The two communications before mentioned having been read and duly considered, it was

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter deem it advisable, under a consideration of all the circumstances attending the formation of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter in the State of Vermont, to admit, and they do hereby admit the said Grand Chapter of Vermont into an union with us under the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution.

A Communication was received from the General Grand King, and the General Grand Scribe, stating, that by virtue of authority derived from a special decree of several of the Grand Chapters of the States, they had conjointly issued a warrant for instituting a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the town of Beaufort, in the State of South Carolina, by the name of Unity Chapter; and also another warrant for instituting a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the City of Savannah, in the State of Georgia, by the name of Georgia Chapter, and that they had received and paid into the Treasury the sum of Eighty Dollars, as fees for the said two warrants; whereupon it was

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter do approve of the proceedings of the General Grand King and the General Grand Scribe, relative to the formation of Unity Chapter in Beaufort,

and Georgia Chapter in Savannah ; and that their respective warrants be confirmed and made permanent by either of the aforementioned General Grand Officers.

Resolved, That in order to prevent the printing or circulation of mutilated or incorrect copies of the Constitution, the copyright of the same be vested in Companion Thomas S. Webb, General Grand King, until the further orders of this General Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That a committee consisting of the General Grand King, and Grand Secretary, be appointed to transcribe and procure to be printed a suitable number of copies of the Constitution, and transmit them to the several States, and that a sum not exceeding Twenty Dollars be appropriated for this purpose.

Resolved, That the General Grand King be appointed to devise and procure a suitable seal for the use of the General Grand Chapter, and that a sum not exceeding Fourteen Dollars be appropriated for this purpose.

Resolved, That Companion Thomas S. Webb, Grand Treasurer, pro tem., be authorized and directed to pay the following sums, viz:

To Mr. Nichols, for the Bill of Entertainment furnished	
to the members during the present meeting, . . .	\$19 00
To the Rhode Island Representation, consisting of Four	
members,	31 62½
To the Connecticut Representation,	00 12½
To the Vermont Representation,	4 25
To Bill of Postage,	3 69
	<hr/>
	\$58 69

A petition was presented from Bryan Sweeny, and others of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, praying for a charter to authorize them to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the said City. Whereupon it was

Resolved, That it is inexpedient to grant the prayer of said petition, inasmuch as it is not accompanied by any recommendation from an adjacent Chapter.

Resolved, That the next septennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter be holden in the City of New York, on the second Thursday in September, A. D. 1812.

The General Grand Chapter proceeded to a choice of Officers agreeably to the Constitution, when the Companions whose names follow, were elected to the offices annexed to their respective names, viz :

M. E. Benjamin Hurd, Jr., Esq., of Charlestown, Mass.,
General Grand High Priest.

M. E. Thomas S. Webb, Esq., of Boston, Mass.,
General Grand King.

E. Ezra Ames, of Albany, New York.
General Grand Scribe.

E. Otis Ammidon, of Providence, R. I.,
General Grand Secretary.

E. James Harrison, of Boston, Mass.,
General Grand Treasurer.

E. and Rev. Jonathan Nye, of New Fane, Vermont.
General Grand Chaplain.

E. Joseph Huntington, of Norwich, Conn.,
General Grand Marshal.

The General Grand Chapter resolved itself into a committee of the whole, upon the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, when sundry alterations and amendments were proposed and considered, and afterwards ratified and confirmed by the General Grand Chapter, which Constitution as ratified and confirmed is in the words following :

[It is unnecessary to print the Constitution thus formed, entire, as it is substantially the same as that of January, 1799. The alterations are, therefore only given, and are as follows :]

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1 changes the name of the General Grand Body to "The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America."

SEC. 2 is substantially the same as Sec. 2 of 1799, except that it leaves the place of meeting to be from time to time appointed.

SEC. 3 gives a concurrent power with the State Grand Chapters to the three first officers of the General Grand Chapter to call special meetings, otherwise unchanged.

SECTION 4, 5, 6, 7, unchanged.

The following Sections are added to Article I :

SEC. 8. In case any casualty should at any time hereafter prevent the septennial election of officers, the several General Grand Officers shall sustain their respective offices until successors are duly elected and qualified.

SEC. 9. The General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, shall severally have power and authority to institute new Royal Arch Chapters, and Lodges of the subordinate degrees in any State in which there is not a Grand Chapter regularly established. But no new Chapter shall be instituted in any State wherein there is a Chapter or Chapters holden under the authority of this Constitution without a recommendation from the Chapter nearest the residence of the petitioners. The fees for instituting a new Royal Arch Chapter, with the subordinate degrees, shall be ninety dollars; and for a new Mark Masters Lodge, twenty dollars, exclusive of such compensation to the Grand Secretary as the Grand Officers aforesaid may deem reasonable.

ARTICLE II.

OF THE STATE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

SEC. 1 Commences—"The State Grand Chapters shall severally consist"—and is then unchanged.

SEC. 2 and 3, unchanged.

SEC. 4 and 5, substantially the same.

SEC. 6. The several State Grand Chapters shall possess authority, upon the institution of new Royal Arch Chapters or Lodges of Mark Masters, within their respective jurisdiction, to require the payment of such fees as they may deem expedient and proper, which said fees shall be advanced and paid into the treasury before a warrant or charter shall be issued.

SEC. 7 and 8, unchanged.

SEC. 9 of Constitution of 1799, omitted.

SEC. 9 of this Constitution, is section 10 of former.

SEC. 10. The Grand Secretaries of the State Grand Chapters shall severally make an annual Communication to each other, and also to the General Grand Secretary, containing a list of Grand Officers and all such other matters as may be deemed necessary for the mutual information of the said Grand Chapters. And the said Grand Secretaries shall also regularly transmit to the General Grand Secretary a copy of all their By-Laws and regulations.

SEC. 11. Whenever there shall have been three or more Royal Arch Chapters, instituted in any State by virtue of authority derived from this Constitution, a Grand Chapter may be formed in such State, with the approbation of one or more of the General Grand Officers, by the High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the said Chapters, who shall be authorized to elect the Grand Officers. Provided always that no new State Grand Chapter shall be formed until after the expiration of one year from the establishment of the Junior Chapter in the said State.

SEC. 12. Substantially the same as Section 11 of former Constitution.

SEC. 13, same as Section 12, of Constitution of 1799.

ARTICLE III.

OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS AND LODGES.

This Article is, throughout, word for word, like the Constitution of 1799.

ARTICLE IV.

OF CONSTITUTING NEW CHAPTERS.

This Article, with one or two slight variations in language, which do not change the sense, is the same as in the Constitution of 1799, with the addition of this Section :

SEC. 4. The officers of every Chapter and Lodge under this jurisdiction, before they enter upon the exercise of their respective offices, and also the members of all such Chapters and Lodges, and every candidate upon his admission into the same, shall take the following obligation, viz :

I. A. B. do promise and swear that I will support and maintain the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution.

The adoption of this Constitution closes the proceedings of the septennial meeting of 1806.

FOURTH MEETING (BEING SPECIAL, IN CONSEQUENCE OF A LAPSE IN 1813) OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER. 1816.

Pursuant to special notice, the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America, assembled at New York, in the State of New York, on Thursday, June 6, 5816.

GENERAL GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT, TO WIT:

M. E. Thomas S. Webb, Esq.,	-	-	-	G. G. KING.
M. E. Ezra Ames, Esq.,	-	-	-	G. G. SCRIBE.
E. and Rev. Jonathan Nye,	-	-	-	G. G. CHAPLAIN.

The G. G. Secretary being absent, the M. E. G.

G. King was pleased to appoint

M. E. John Abbot, Esq.,	-	-	-	G. G. SEC., <i>p. t</i>
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The following Companions appeared and presented credentials as officers and proxies of officers of the several State Grand Chapters, to wit :

From Massachusetts.

M. E. John Abbot, Esq.,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
M. E. Henry Fowle, Esq.,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.

From Rhode Island.

M. E. William Wilkinson, Esq.,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. Seth Peck, Esq.,	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.
E. Caleb Earle, Esq., as proxy of John Carlisle,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
E. Peter Grennell, Esq., as proxy of J. Davis,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.

From New York.

M. E. Ezra Ames, Esq.,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
E. Joel Hart, Esq.,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. Joseph Enos,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
E. John Brush,	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Connecticut.

E. John H. Lynde, Esq.,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
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From Vermont.

M. E. Charles K. Williams, Esq.,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
He also appeared as proxy of					
E. Josiah Dunham,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. Jeduthan Loomis,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
E. Elijah Buck,	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From South Carolina.

M. E. Thomas S. Webb, Esq., as proxy of	-	-	-	-	
M. E. William Young,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
E. Foster Burnet, as proxy of	-	-	-	-	
E. Benjamin Phillips,	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Maryland.

The following Companions appeared as delegates from the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland:

M. E. Philip P. Eckel, Esq.,	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
E. Benjamin Edes, Esq.,	-	-	-	G. SECRETARY.

Certain Letters and Documents from the General Grand High Priest, King and Scribe, respectively, relative to the General Grand Chapters not meeting in September, A. L., 5812, being read, voted to commit the same to Companion Jonathan Nye, Henry Fowle, and Charles K. Williams, who afterwards reported as follows :

“ That the situation of the Country was such at that time as to render it highly inconvenient for the General Grand Chapter to convene, and the meeting having been prevented by a casualty such as is contemplated by the 8th section of the first article of the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, your committee are unanimously of opinion, that the present meeting is holden in pursuance of the said Constitution, and is legally competent to do and transact any business which may come before them.”

J. NYE, *per order*.

Which report being read, voted to accept the same.

On motion, Voted, that a committee of one Companion from each State represented, be raised to report what alterations or explanations, if any, are necessary to be made in the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter.

Companions John Abbot, William Wilkinson, John Brush, John H. Lynde, Charles K. Williams, and Foster Burnet, were appointed such Committee.

On motion, Voted, to raise a committee of three to confer with the delegates from Maryland relative to their forming a Masonic Union with the Grand Chapters of the several States, now acknowledging and under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States.

Companions Joel Hart, Henry Fowle, and Ezra Ames were appointed such committee.

Voted, to choose a committee of three to audit the accounts of the General Grand Secretary and Treasurer.

Companions Jonathan Nye, Peter Grennell and Joseph Enos were appointed such committee.

Voted, to choose a committee of three relative to the granting of sundry Charters for Royal Arch Chapters by the General Grand King and General Grand Scribe.

Companions Henry Fowle, Jonathan Nye, and Joseph Enos, were appointed such committee.

Voted, to proceed to the election of General Grand Officers to-morrow, June 7th, 12 o'clock, M.

Voted, to choose a committee of one to make arrangements preparatory to a discourse to be delivered to-morrow, by Rev. Companion Nye. Companion Joel Hart was appointed such a committee. Adjourned.

JUNE 7, 5816.

The committee to whom was referred the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution for revision, made the following report, that Article 1, Section 1, be in the following words, instead of said article in the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, as the same is therein written, to wit :

ARTICLE 1.

SECTION 1. There shall be a General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America, which shall be holden as is hereinafter directed, and shall consist of a General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, General Grand Scribe, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain and Marshal, and likewise of the several Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the time being, of the several State Grand Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, and of the Past General Grand High Priests, Deputy General Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the said General Grand Chapter, and the aforesaid Officers or their proxies shall be the only members and voters in said General Grand Chapter. And no person shall be constituted a proxy, unless he be a present or past officer of this or a State Grand Chapter.

Which report being read,

Ordered, that the same lie on the table for the consideration of the members of the General Grand Chapter.

The committee appointed to confer with the delegates of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, on the subject of a Masonic Union, made the following report, to wit :

REPORT.

The undersigned, having been appointed a committee for the purpose of conferring with M. E. Companions Philip P. Eckel, and Benjamin Edes, delegates of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Maryland, beg leave to report, that they have had an interview with the above named Companions, from whom they received the following proposition, to wit : The Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, are willing to support the Constitution of this General Grand Chapter. It will not grant any warrants out of its District, and will discountenance all Chapters formed contrary to the General Grand Constitution, but requests that it shall not be forced to alter its mode of working, if any difference should exist, at present, and to be received on an equality with the other Grand Chapters.

Under a consideration of all the above circumstances, your committee recommend that the said Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland, be admitted to a union with this General Grand Chapter.

EZRA AMES,
JOEL HART,
HENRY FOWLE.

NEW YORK, *June 7th*, 5816.

The undersigned Delegates from the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, agree to the above Report.

P. P. ECKEL, G. H. P.
BENJ. EDES.

Which report being read, voted, to accept the same, and thereupon

Voted, to receive the said Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter ; and the said Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, is accordingly admitted under said jurisdiction, subject to the Constitution and Regulations of the said General Grand Chapter.

The report of the committee for revising the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution being taken up, and under consideration, on motion made by Companion Hart, that said report be so amended as that the Past Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the State Grand Chapters under this jurisdiction be permanent members of the General Grand Chapter, said amendment of the report of said Committee was by vote rejected ; and thereupon

Voted, to accept said Report as made by said committee.

The committee to whom was referred the granting of Charters for opening Royal Arch Chapters by the General Grand King and General Grand Scribe, made the following report :

That the General Grand King has granted Warrants or Charters for the following Chapters, to wit :

St. Andrew's Chapter, Hanover, N. H., 27th January, 5807.

Trinity Chapter, Hopkinton, N. H., 10th February, 5807.

Phoenix Chapter, Fayetteville, N. C., 1st September, 5815.

Washington Chapter, Portsmouth, N. H., November, 5815.

Union Chapter, Louisville, Georgia, 16th December, 5815.

Cheshire Chapter, Keen, N. H., 4th May, 5816.

Concord Chapter, Wilmington, N. C., " " 5815.

That the General Grand Scribe has granted Warrants or Charters for the following Chapters, to wit :

Washington Chapter, Newark, N. J., 26th May, 5813.

Washington Chapter, Chillicothe, Ohio, September 20, 5815.

Cincinnati Mark Lodge, No. 1, Hanover, N. J., April, 5811.

Union Mark Lodge, No. 2, Orange, N. J., July, 5812.

And your committee are of opinion that the above Warrants or Charters have been issued agreeably to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and ought to be confirmed by the same.

All which is respectfully submitted by

HENRY FOWLE,

JOSEPH ENOS,

JONATHAN NYE.

Which being read, voted to accept the same, and that said Warrants or Charters be, and they are hereby confirmed accordingly.

The General Grand Chapter then proceeded to elect the following officers, to wit :

M. E. and Hon. DeWitt Clinton, of New York City,
General Grand High Priest.

“ Thos. Smith Webb, of Boston, Mass.,
Deputy General Grand High Priest.

“ John H. Lynde, Esq., of New Haven, Conn.,
General Grand King.

“ Philip P. Eckel, Esq., of Baltimore, Md.,
General Grand Scribe.

“ John Abbot, Esq., of Westford, Mass.,
General Grand Secretary.

“ Peter Grennell, Esq., of Providence, Rhode Island,
General Grand Treasurer.

“ Rev. Jonathan Nye, of New Fane, Vt.,
General Grand Chaplain.

“ John Harris, Esq., of Hopkinton, N. Hampshire,
General Grand Marshal.

On motion, the following resolutions were passed unanimously, to wit :

Resolved, That the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution be so far amended as that the Deputy General Grand High Priest shall have and possess powers and prerogatives equal and similar to those possessed by, and vested in the General Grand High Priest, King and Scribe, of the General Grand Chapter, by the said Constitution.

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary be authorized and directed, with the approbation of the General Grand High Priest, or Deputy General Grand High Priest, to procure to be printed a suitable number of copies of the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, as amended, together with an abstract of the proceedings of the present meeting of the General Grand Chapter ; and that he forward a copy thereof to each of the General Grand Officers, and also to forward to each of the State Grand Chapter and to the Chapters holden in States wherein there are no Grand Chapters, copies in proportion to their respective numbers ; and that the General Grand or Deputy General Grand High Priest be authorized to allow and draw for the expense of the same upon the General Grand Treasurer.

Voted and chose Companions Joel Hart, Charles K. Williams, and Philip P. Eckel, a committee for the purpose of considering the propriety of devising measures for raising a fund for the use of the General Grand Chapter, and that said committee report as soon as may be. Adjourned.

JUNE 8, 5816.

The Committee appointed to consider the expediency of raising a fund for the use of the General Grand Chapter, made the following report :

That on mature consideration of the above object, it is the opinion of your committee that, at present, it is inexpedient to adopt additional measures for establishing a fund for this General Grand Chapter.

P. P. ECKEL,
JOEL HART,
Committee.

NEW YORK, June 8, 5816.

Which being read, voted to accept the same.

On motion, voted that the next meeting of the General Grand Chapter be holden in the City of New York, in the State of New York, unless the first four, or a majority of the first four General Grand Officers shall designate some other place, and cause timely notice thereof to be given to all Companions interested.

The General Grand Officers appeared and were duly installed into their respective offices.

The following Resolution was passed by the General Grand Chapter, to wit :

Resolved, That for every Companion heretofore exalted in any Chapter, holden by dispensation or warrant from either of the General Grand Officers, such Chapter shall pay the sum of one dollar into the General Grand Treasury, and that for every companion that may be hereafter exalted in any Chapter, holden as aforesaid the sum of two dollars, shall be paid in like manner. And that the General Grand Secretary, notify the said Chapters hereof, and request them to settle their dues accordingly.

The General Grand Chapter was then closed in due form, to meet on the second Thursday in September, A. D. 1819.

(Attest,)

JOHN ABBOT,

G. G. Secretary.

FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER FOR 1819.

Pursuant to notice, the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States assembled at New York, in the State of New York, on Thursday, September 9, A. D. 1819.

GENERAL GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT TO WIT:

M. E. Peter Grennell, Esq.,	-	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.
M. E. and Rev. Jonathan Nye,	-	-	-	G. G. CHAPLAIN.

M. E. and Rev. Jonathan Nye was requested to preside in the General Grand Chapter.

The General Grand Secretary being absent, M. E. Henry Fowle was appointed G. G. Secretary, pro tem.

The following Companions appeared and presented credentials as Officers, and proxies of Officers of the several State Grand Chapters, to wit :

From Massachusetts.

M. E. Henry Fowle,	- - -	D. G. H. PRIEST.
He also appeared as proxy for		
" John Abbot, Esq.,	- - -	G. G. SECRETARY.
" Andrew Sigourney, Esq.,	as proxy of the	
Hon. James Prescott, Esq.,	- -	G. H. PRIEST.
" Samuel L. Knapp, Esq.,	as proxy of	
M. E. and Rev. James Morss,	- - -	G. SCRIBE.

From Rhode Island.

M. E. William Wilkinson, Esq.,	- -	G. H. PRIEST.
E. Caleb Earle, Esq.,	- - -	G. SCRIBE.

From Connecticut.

M. E. Laban Smith, Esq.,	- - -	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. Thomas H. Cushing,	- - -	G. SCRIBE.
He also appeared as proxy of		
M. E. Lyman Law, Esq.,	- - -	G. H. PRIEST.

From Vermont.

M. E. John H. Cotton, Esq.,	- - -	G. H. PRIEST.
He also appeared as proxy of		
E. Lemuel Whiting, Esq.,	- - -	G. KING.
E. Joseph Farnsworth, Esq.,	- - -	G. SCRIBE.
M. E. Gurdon Newell,	- - -	D. G. H. PRIEST.

From New York.

M. E. Richard Hatfield, Esq.,	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. Joseph Enos, Jr., Esq.,	-	-	G. KING.
E. Ebenezer Wadsworth, Esq., as proxy of			
M. E. Ezra Ames, Esq.,	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Ohio.

M. E. John Snow, Esq.,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
E. David Embree, Esq.,	-	-	G. KING.

He also appeared as proxy of

M. E. Phineas Ross, Esq.,	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. Sardine Stone, Esq.,	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Kentucky.

E. David G. Cowan, Esq.,	-	-	G. KING.
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He also appeared as proxy of

M. E. John Willet, Esq.,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
E. William G. Hunt, Esq.,	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, pro tem, was pleased to appoint M. E. Henry Fowle, and M. E. Peter Grennell, a committee to examine said credentials, who, after examination of the same, reported that the foregoing Companions from the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, Ohio and Kentucky, are duly qualified to sit and act in the said General Grand Royal Arch Chapter, which report was accepted.

The General Grand Chapter was then opened in due form.

The General Grand High Priest, pro tem, announced the death of M. E. Thomas Smith Webb, and John H. Lynde, Esqs., since the last session of the General Grand Chapter. Whereupon a committee, consisting of M. E. Companions Wilkinson, Fowle, Cotton, Snow, Hatfield, Smith and Cowan, was raised to consider and report what notice it is proper for the General Grand Chapter to take of these afflicting dispensations of Providence.

This committee subsequently reported several resolutions of sympathy and respect, and the General Grand Chapter voted

unanimously to adopt the resolution, and also, that the same committee be directed to wait on the Most Excellent and Rev. Companion Nye, and request him to deliver an Eulogy upon these distinguished and lamented companions ; which Eulogy was subsequently delivered, and resolutions of condolence passed.

Certain papers being presented relating to the establishment of a Grand Chapter in the State of New Jersey, were referred.

A verbal communication was made by Most Excellent John Snow from the Grand Chapter of Ohio. Whereupon,

Voted, That the Grand Chapter of Ohio be now received into the union of the State Grand Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter.

The proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky were read, whereupon the following resolution was passed, to wit :

Whereas, it has been communicated to this General Grand Chapter, that several warrants of Constitution were granted since the last communication, authorizing the opening and holding of Royal Arch Chapters in Lexington, Frankfort and Shelbyville, in the State of Kentucky, by our late Most Excellent Companion, Thomas Smith Webb, and that said Chapters having been constitutionally in operation for the space of more than one year, did form themselves into a Grand Chapter for said State under the jurisdiction of this body, and have been regularly recognized as such, by Most Excellent Companions DeWitt Clinton, General Grand High Priest, and Thomas S. Webb, late Deputy General Grand High Priest.

Resolved, Therefore, that this General Grand Chapter approves and recognizes the formation of said Grand Chapter, for said State of Kentucky.

Resolved, That Most Excellent Companions Knapp, Grennell, Wadsworth, Cotton, Cushing, Cowan and Snow, be a Committee to take into consideration and report what, if any alterations or amendments ought to be made in the Constitution of this General Grand Chapter, and that a communication from Vermont be referred to said Committee. Adjourned.

SEPT. 10, 1819.

The committee to whom was referred the communication from the companion from the State of New Jersey, on the subject of forming a Grand Chapter in that State, beg leave to report, that they have examined the several communications committed to their charge, and from the information of the companion who presented the same, it appears that there are two Royal Arch Chapters in the State of New Jersey under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, and one under the authority of the State of Pennsylvania, which does not acknowledge the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter. Your committee, therefore, are of opinion that the constitutional regulation, interdicting all communication of Chapters and members under this jurisdiction, with those who do not acknowledge it, ought to be strictly adhered to, and that no Grand Chapter can be legally constituted in said State, until there shall be three Royal Arch Chapters acknowledging this jurisdiction.

Which is respectfully submitted by

ANDREW SIGOURNEY,
JOSEPH ENOS,
CALEB EARLE.

Sept. 10th, 1819.

Voted, that the above report be accepted.

The following communication from John Harris, of New Hampshire, to the Grand Grand Secretary, and the resolution of the General Grand Chapter in relation to it, are the only portions of this report, which are deemed necessary to insert here.

“A letter from John Harris to the General Grand Secretary, dated August 23rd, 1819, stating that a Grand Chapter had been formed and organized on the 10th day of June last, in the State of New Hampshire. Also, a list of the officers of the said Grand Chapter; and that official notice thereof would be given as soon as a circular could be printed.” In relation to the above communication, the General Grand Chapter passed the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved, That so soon as official notice of the formation of a Grand Chapter in the State of New Hampshire, shall be received by the General Grand Secretary, he be, and is authorized to issue a circular, recognizing the said Grand Chapter in union of the Grand Chapters of the States under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter.

RICHARD HATFIELD,
T. H. CUSHING,
DAVID EMBREE.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to consider if any further measures can be adopted for the more extensive diffusion of Masonic light, a more thorough and extensive organization of Grand and Subordinate Chapters, and a more regular system of labor and discipline throughout this jurisdiction.

The M. E. Companions Nye, Newell, Enos, Cowan, Embree, Earle and Knapp were appointed a Committee for the above purpose.

Voted to adjourn to 4 o'clock, P. M.

4 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The General Grand Chapter assembled according to adjournment, and proceeded to the election of Officers, when the following M. E. Companions were declared duly elected, viz :

M. E. and Hon. DeWitt Clinton, of Albany, N. Y.,
General Grand High Priest.

" Henry Fowle, Esq., of Boston, Mass.,
Deputy General Grand High Priest.

" John Snow, Esq., of Worthington, Ohio,
General Grand King.

M. E. Philip P. Eckel, Esq., of Baltimore, Maryland,
General Grand Scribe.

" John Abbot, Esq., of Westford, Mass.,
General Grand Secretary.

M. E. Peter Grennell, Esq., of Providence, R. I.,
General Grand Treasurer.

“ and Rev. Jonathan Nye, of New Fane, Vt.,
General Grand Chaplain.

“ David G. Cowan Esq., of Kentucky,
General Grand Marshal.

Adjourned.

SEPT. 11, 5819.

The General Grand Chapter then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the Constitution. M. E. William Wilkinson, Esq., in the chair.

The committee appointed to consider whether any alterations or amendments were necessary to be made in the General Grand Constitution, made the following report, which was accepted :

The committee appointed to enquire if any and what alterations are necessary to be made in the General Grand Constitution, have discharged the duty assigned them, and beg leave respectfully to report it as their opinion that no alterations are necessary at the present time ; but, considering that the general interests of Royal Arch Masonry require an earlier meeting than is provided by the General Grand Constitution, your committee recommend the following resolution, to wit :

Resolved, That it is the sense of this General Grand Chapter, now assembled in the City of New York, that a meeting of the General Grand Chapter should be called by the General Grand Officers, according to the provisions of the Constitution, to be holden at the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, on the second Wednesday of February, which will be in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three.

SAMUEL L. KNAPP,
Per order.

This resolution was subsequently reported to the General Grand Chapter, and adopted.

The General Grand Chapter then proceeded to the appropriate exercises relating to the death of Companions Webb and Lynde.

The Committee on the Communication of the General Grand High Priest reported the following, which was accepted, viz :

Your Committee to whom was referred the report of the General Grand High Priest, and other communications, on the subjects of granting warrants, &c., beg leave to report, that they have attended to the duty assigned them, and find the General Grand High Priest has granted the following dispensations, viz :

To Monroe Chapter, at Detroit, Michigan, on the third of December, 5818.

To Augusta Chapter, Augusta, Georgia, on the sixth of December, 5818.

To Cumberland Chapter, Nashville, Tennessee, on the second of March, 5818.

To Missouri Chapter, Missouri Territory, on the third of April, 5819.

To Union Mark Lodge, No. 1, in Claremont, New Hampshire, on the third of July, 5818.

The fees for which, amounting to three hundred and eighty dollars, they understand to be in his hands, subject to the order of the General Grand Treasurer. All of which appears to have been correct, and ought, in the opinion of the Committee, to be approved, and they recommend that warrants be granted to them respectively, if necessary to their confirmation, whenever the constitutional returns, dues, &c., shall be made to the General Grand Secretary and Treasurer.

On the sixth of May, 5813, M. E. Ezra Ames, then General Grand Scribe, granted a dispensation to John N. Cummings, John E. Ruckle, Jephtha Baldwin, and others to hold a Chapter in New-

ark, N. J., by the name of Washington Chapter, No. 1, which dispensation was renewed on the 9th of June, 5819, by Most Excellent Thomas S. Webb, Deputy General Grand High Priest, and is now returned to, this General Grand Chapter, and the dues paid to the General Grand Treasurer, praying for a Charter, your committee recommend therefore that a Charter be granted to them accordingly.

The committee were informed that late Deputy General Grand High Priest, Companion Webb, has granted the following dispensations in the State of Indiana, viz.:

Madison Chapter, in Madison, and Brookville Chapter, in Brookville; but as no official communication from them has been received, owing, they presume, to the death of that officer, the committee do not deem any order thereon necessary.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. WADSWORTH, *per order*.

The committee to whom was referred the settlement of the General Grand Secretary and Treasurer's accounts reported in detail, showing a balance, after deducting all expenses and allowances, of one thousand forty-two dollars, and sixty cents (\$1,042 60) remaining in the hands of the General Grand Treasurer.

A resolution was passed, requesting the General Grand Secretary to cause the transactions of the present session of this General Grand Chapter to be printed and distributed to the several State Grand Chapters.

The General Grand Chapter was closed after prayer offered by the General Grand Chaplain.

SIXTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. 5826.

Pursuant to notice, the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, assembled at New York, in the State of New York, on Thursday, September 14, A. L. 5826.

GENERAL GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT, TO WIT:

M. E. John Snow, Esq., - - - G. G. KING.
 " Peter Grinnell, Esq., - - - G. G. TREASURER.
 " and Rev. Jonathan Nye, - - - G. G. CHAPLAIN.

The G. G. Secretary not being present,

" Nathaniel Coffin was appointed - G. G. SEC., *p. t.*

The following Companions appeared and presented credentials as Officers, and proxies of Officers, of the several State Grand Chapters, to wit :

M. E. Moses Richardson, of Boston, Mass., as
 proxy for
 " Henry Fowle, - - - D. G. G. H. PRIEST.
 " John James Loring, of Boston, Mass., as
 proxy for
 " John Abbot, - - - G. G. SECRETARY.

From New York.

M. E. Asa Fitch, of Salem, Washington Co., G. H. PRIEST.
 E. Ezra S. Cozier, of Utica, - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.
 E. Orville Hungerford, of Watertown, Jeff. Co., G. KING.
 E. Jonathan Eights, of Albany, - - - G. SCRIBE.

From Rhode Island.

M. E. Peter Grinnell, of Providence, - - - G. H. PRIEST.
 " Caleb Brown, of Pawtucket - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.
 E. Joseph Tompkins, of do. by his proxy,
 M. E. Caléb Brown, - - - G. KING.
 E. Jesse Clark, of Providence, by his proxy,
 M. E. Peter Grinnell, - - - G. SCRIBE.

From Connecticut.

M. E. Thos. Hubbard, Pomfret, Windham Co., G. H. PRIEST.
 " Wm. H. Jones, of N. Haven, by his proxy,
 Comp. John Barker, - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.
 E. Andrew Harris, of Canterbury, - - - G. KING.
 E. Asa Child, of Norwich, - - - G. SCRIBE.

From Massachusetts.

- M. E. & Rev. Paul Dean, of Boston, - G. H. PRIEST.
 " Augustus Peabody, of Boston, by his proxy,
 E. Samuel L. Knapp, - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.
 E. Daniel L. Gibbons, of Boston, - - G. KING.
 E. John James Loring, of Boston, - - G. SCRIBE.

From Vermont.

- M. E. John H. Cotton, of Windsor, - - G. H. PRIEST.
 " Rev. Joel Clapp, of Shelburne, - D. G. H. PRIEST.
 E. Hannibal Hodges, of Clarendon, by his proxy,
 M. E. John H. Cotton, - - - G. KING.
 E. Naphtali Shaw, by his proxy,
 M. E. John H. Cotton, - - - G. SCRIBE.

From South Carolina.

- M. E. John L. Wilson, Charleston, by his proxy,
 " Richard Pennell, of New York, - G. H. PRIEST.
 " George Cuthbert, of Beaufort, by his proxy,
 E. James Eyland, of Charleston, - - D. G. H. PRIEST.
 E. Lemuel Coleman, of Charleston, - - G. KING.
 E. Liberty Olds, of Charleston, - - G. SCRIBE.

From Maryland.

- M. E. Joseph K. Stapleton, of Baltimore, - G. H. PRIEST.
 E. George Keyser, of Baltimore, - - G. SCRIBE.

From Ohio.

- M. E. Edward King, of Chillicothe, - - G. H. PRIEST.

From Kentucky.

- M. E. Jas. M. Pike, of Lexington, by his proxy,
 " William G. Hunt, - - - G. H. PRIEST.

From New Hampshire.

M. E. Samuel Cushman, of Portsmouth, -	G. HIGH PRIEST.
“ Frederick A. Sumner, of Charleston, by his proxy,	
E. Joseph W. White, - - - -	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. Joseph Warren White, of Portsmouth, -	G. KING.
E. Oliver Heaton, of Keene, by his proxy,	
E. Joseph W. White, - - - -	G. SCRIBE.

From Maine.

M. E. Nathaniel Coffin, of Wiscasset, -	G. H. PRIEST.
“ Samuel Fesenden, of Portland, -	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. Peleg Sprague, of Hallowell, - -	G. KING.
E. Silas Stearns, of Bath, by their proxy,	
M. E. Nathaniel Coffin, - - - -	G. SCRIBE.

From Alabama.

E. Thaddeus Sanford, of Mobile, . -	G. SCRIBE.
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From Tennessee.

M. E. William G. Hunt, of Nashville, -	G. H. PRIEST.
“ W. Tannehill, of do. - -	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. Edward H. Steele, of Clarksville, -	G. KING.
E. Dyer Pearl, of Nashville, by their proxy,	
M. E. William G. Hunt, - - - -	G. SCRIBE.

From District of Columbia.

M. E. Thomas Howard, of Washington City, by his proxy,	
E. Edward S. Lewis, - - - -	D. G. H. PRIEST.

From New Jersey.

M. E. John E. Ruckle, of Newark, - -	G. H. PRIEST.
“ Elias I. Thompson, of Newark, -	D. G. H. PRIEST.

From Louisiana.

M. E. Elisha Andrews, of Jackson,	
<i>H. Priest of Lafayette Chapter.</i>	

All of whom were reported duly qualified, and the General Grand Chapter was opened in due form.

A committee was appointed to wait on the General Grand High Priest, Most Excellent DE WITT CLINTON, who soon after entered the hall, and was received with appropriate honors.

AFTERNOON.

Companions King, Fitch and Knapp, were appointed a committee to examine and report on the papers and proceedings of the General Grand Officers during the recess.

The following resolution was offered by Excellent Companion Lewis, and referred to Most Excellent Companions, King, Fitch, and Knapp, *to wit* :

Resolved, That the assent given by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, under his hand and seal on the 30th day of August, A. L., 5822, to the formation of a Grand Chapter within and for the District of Columbia, be and the same is hereby approved, ratified and confirmed, by this General Grand Chapter—and the said Grand Chapter is hereby recognized as such, and admitted to an Union with this General Grand Chapter, and as a Grand Chapter within and for said District of Columbia, shall have jurisdiction over all Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, within the same agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution of this General Grand Chapter. And the authority of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, over said District shall from, and after the date hereof, cease and determine, except so far as relates to Potomac Chapter—and said Grand Chapter for the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, shall be hereafter known and distinguished by the style or title of the GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER for the State of Maryland—and shall have authority to alter their seal accordingly.

On motion, Most Excellent Companions, Loring, Richardson and Hunt, were appointed a committee, to audit and settle the accounts of the General Grand Secretary and General Grand Treasurer.

A letter from the Most Excellent John Abbott, General Grand Secretary, declining a re-election to that Office, and relating to other subjects of interest to the General Grand Chapter, was read and referred to Most Excellent Companions, Loring, Richardson and Hunt.

Most Excellent William G. Hunt, as proxy for the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky ; presented for the consideration of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter, the following resolution, which was adopted by the said Grand Chapter, at a Grand annual Convocation, held at Masons Hall, in the Town of Lexington, on Monday, the 5th day of September, 1825, *to wit* :

“ *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed for the purpose of drafting a memorial or petition to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and of corresponding with the several Grand Chapters subordinate to the said General Grand Chapter of the United States, upon the propriety of dissolving the General Grand Chapter ; and that said committee report the result of such correspondence to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of this Most Excellent Grand Chapter, and that he take such steps thereon as may seem to him most expedient.”

Whereupon Companions M’Kinney, Johnston and Cosby, were appointed a committee for that purpose.

(*Attest,*)

PHILLIP SWIGERT, *Grand Sec’y.*

And also the following Memorial, drafted by a committee appointed by the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, for that purpose—*to wit*:

The Committee appointed in pursuance of the foregoing resolution of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, would respectively beg leave to present for the consideration of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and the respective State Grand Chapters, the reasons which induce them to wish for a dissolution of the said General Grand Chapter.

The establishment of a General Grand Chapter may have been useful at first, when the number of Chapters in our country was small, as a legitimate source from whence new Chapters might derive their authority to work ; but, as Grand Chapters have since been established in most of the States, the existence of the General Grand Chapter is no longer necessary ; and as its authority and jurisdiction are not acknowledged by all the State Grand Chapters, it tends to produce discord among the fraternity.

The State Grand Chapters are emphatically appellate and legislative bodies, and should possess the power of adapting their laws to the opinions and customs of the fraternity within their respective jurisdictions. This would not interfere with the general design or tendency of Masonry ; but would merely give to each State Grand Chapter the right to modify its written rules, without being subject to the control of a superior power.

The General Grand Chapter must, of necessity, hold its meetings at so great a distance from most of the State Grand Chapters, that they will frequently fail to be all represented ; and the expense of sending on representatives, is an unnecessary waste of their funds.

By the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, the *Past Officers* are made members for life, of the several State Grand Chapters ; and, in case they find it inconvenient to attend in person, they are allowed the privilege of appointing proxies. The Past Officers *may* increase in number at the rate of *four* per annum, and generally *do* increase at the rate of one or two—perhaps they average *two* per annum. They are each entitled to a vote upon every question presented to the Grand Chapter, and in a few years will out-number, and may completely control the representatives of the subordinate Chapters. If, however, through courtesy, they should still be retained as members of the Grand Chapters, it is conceived they ought not to be allowed the privilege of appointing *proxies* to represent them when absent.

It is presumed that they were made members of the Grand Chapters on account of the skill and ability which had procured

their elevation to the Grand Council ; but, as they cannot transfer these qualities to their proxies, the reason ceases, and the privilege should cease with it. The same objection may also be fairly urged against allowing the *Present Officers* the privileges of appointing proxies to represent them when absent in person.

It may be said, that some of these complaints might be removed by amendments to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter. But other evils and inconveniencies will be found to exist, and its meetings are so far apart, that it is impracticable to provide, from time to time, for all the changes which experience may suggest ; and to make its meetings more frequent, would increase the burthen already complained of.

The true objects of Masonic institutions are not splendid establishments and pompous exhibitions ; but the relief of the distressed, the promotion of brotherly love, and the exercise of private charity. In the annals of ancient Masonry we hear nothing of General Grand Chapters or General Grand Lodges, nor even of Grand Chapters or Lodges. Each Lodge constituted a separate and independent body, cultivating within its bosom the most exalted of human virtues, and dispensing its bounty to the needy brethren and their destitute families within the sphere of its jurisdiction, while its individual members were hailed as brothers, and, if needy, relieved by all the sister Lodges. The affairs of each Lodge were settled within itself, in its own way, without appeal or control. The resources of the order, instead of being devoted to costly entertainments and the support of splendid establishments, were applied to the relief of needy brethren and their destitute widows and children, in pursuance of the original, pure and simple objects of the institution. Inconveniences were doubtless experienced, from the occasional prevalence of party spirit, originating from a difference of opinion and unsubdued passions, as well as injustice to individual brothers. Hence, in process of time, it seemed proper to a majority of the craft to establish Grand Chapters and Lodges, with supervising and controlling power over the original Chapters and Lodges. Even these additions to the

Masonic edifice were not necessary to extend the original objects of the institution ; but merely to guard against those errors of opinion, and those bursts of passion, which are incident to all human institutions. They are a kind of necessary evil. They are evils, because they consume a portion of the funds of the order, and thereby lessen its ability to dispense its charities ; and by creating high offices, they encourage ambition in the craft, which ought to be distinguished only by disinterestedness and humble deportment ; but we are not disposed to censure the establishment of Grand Chapters and Lodges ; for, with all their evils, they do essential good, in correcting the errors of the subordinate institutions, and promoting harmony among Masons.

The idea of a General Grand Chapter, as well as of a General Grand Lodge, seems to have been suggested by the political institutions of our country. But, are the cases analogous? The original Chapters and Lodges were formerly independent bodies, like our States. They confederated under Grand Chapters and Lodges, which exercise a controlling and revising power, and fill the place of our national government. Here the analogy between our Masonic and political institutions is at an end. It matters not, that the Masonic confederation extend only to the limits of a State, while the political embraces almost half a continent. The analogy exists in principle, not in the extent of surface over which the confederation may spread. There are in many of the States more Lodges than there are States in the American Union. In our Masonic Union, the Grand Chapters and Lodges, together with the original Chapters and Lodges, exercise their jurisdiction, each in its sphere, over the same territory and the same people, like our National and State governments. To add to these a General Grand Chapter or Lodge, is like establishing a general grand government, over the nations of the earth, which should introduce into the United States a third jurisdiction, controlling both the National and State governments, as well as each individual citizen. Where is the politician so mad as to think of a project like this? Is not our political machine sufficiently com-

plicated, and does it not operate with sufficient harmony, without resorting to another superintending and controlling power? Would it not, without producing any good, increase the collisions of the machinery, and augment the burthens of the people? Yet, what else has been done in Masonry? We have our Chapters, with jurisdictions analogous to those of our States; we have our Grand Chapters, analogous to the government of the United States; but, not content with these, we must have our General Grand Chapter also, which has not its parallel in our own or any other government, and is really of little use but to increase our burthens and add an un-Masonic pomp and splendor to our humble and lowly institution.

The same necessity does not exist for a confederation in the Masonic, as in the political world. Masonry is pacific in every thing. It fears no invasion or insurrection. Its force is moral, not physical. It defends itself, not by armies, but by the purity of its principles and the benevolence of its acts. It conquers, not by destroying or enslaving the bodies of men, but by winning their hearts. There was no enemy abroad which required the establishment of a General Grand Chapter for the defence of American Masons; there were no dangerous dissensions between the Grand Chapters of the States, which could only be quelled by the interposition of a superior power. Masonry attempts to make man what he ought to be—to bend the energies of his nature, by gentle precepts, wholly to the promotion of general happiness. Why, therefore should she imitate those gorgeous establishments which are formed as well to curb and punish his licentiousness as to minister to his vanity?

Of what use is the General Grand Chapter in promoting the true and legitimate objects of Masonry? Does it increase the resources of our order? No; it consumes them. Does it search out and present to us worthy and unknown objects of charity? No; this duty is performed by the original Chapters. Is it necessary to correct the errors of the Chapters and maintain harmony among Masons? No; this is sufficiently done by the Grand Chapters. The only plausible pretext for the establishment and sup-

port of this institution, is, that it will produce uniformity in the work of Masons. Masonry is essentially the same in all ages and all countries. From its ancient landmarks, there can be no essential deviation, without destroying its character and forfeiting its benefits. For many ages before the General Grand Chapter existed, Masons of different nations and languages found no difficulty in making themselves known to each other, and the great objects of the order were everywhere understood, and its fundamental principles remained unchanged. If, without all this splendid and expensive paraphernalia Masonry remained uniform through the dark ages of barbarism and superstition, is it necessary, in this day of light and knowledge, to raise up barrier upon barrier, and exhaust the means of the order, to fence against innovation? The Masons of the different States found no difficulty in making themselves known to each other, and in practising the great virtues of the order, before the General Grand Chapter existed. No Chapter could deviate materially from ancient form and usage, without being excluded from the fraternity, and making themselves strangers among the Masonic brotherhood. As for ages past, so for ages to come, this matter will regulate itself, and Masonry would continue to be what it ever has been, were there no General Grand Chapter in existence. Variations in the work and language of Masons, will necessarily be so slight, as not to affect the general principles or practice of the order; and if it were otherwise, it would be found impracticable for the General Grand Chapter to correct these errors over so wide a spread of territory; nor is it certain that the authority to do so will always be placed in the hands of those best qualified for the task. But if this argument prove the necessity of a General Grand Chapter of the United States, much more does it prove the necessity of a still higher story to the Masonic edifice, which shall overlook the whole Masonic world. If a General Grand Chapter only can produce uniformity in America, what shall produce it in Europe, Asia and Africa? Ought not those who introduce this argument, to propose an Universal Grand Chapter, whose decisions shall bind all the Masons

of the earth, and introduce among us a fourth jurisdiction, and a fourth grade of Chapters, to be supported by our contributions? That which regulates itself, needs no regulator. In relation to uniformity of work and language, Masopry will ever regulate itself; and for the settlement of disputes and correcting errors, Grand Chapters and Lodges, in addition to the original Chapters and Lodges, are amply sufficient.

It is no defence of a General Grand Chapter, that it is *national*. Why should we have a national thing, when there is no use for it? Who would advocate or support a national government, were it not useful? Could the people be convinced that a President, Congress and national Judiciary did nothing for their good, which might not as well or better be done by their State governments, would they not abolish them all? Would they keep up the paraphernalia of a national government, at an enormous expense, merely to gratify the vanity and ambition of great men? We think not. Yet we pay the expense and keep up a General Grand Chapter, for no practical good, either to ourselves or the craft in general. Are we doing our duty by this, or are we more gratified at seeing this splendor, than by witnessing the tear of gratitude flow down the cheeks of the widow and orphan whom this very money might relieve from urgent distress?

We can look upon the General Grand Chapter only as an institution calculated to waste the funds of our order, engender ambition, administer food to vanity, and every way incompatible with the pure and sublime principles of Masonry. We also apprehend that it will be used by political men, as a convenient instrument to further their intrigues and spread their influence; and that elevation will be sought in it, more to obtain an exalted attitude in the eyes of the people, than to promote true charity or the interests of the craft.

With these facts before us, and entertaining these opinions and apprehensions, we are induced to ask for, and to recommend a dissolution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States; and we request the early attention of the several State Grand

Chapters to this subject, that an expression of their opinions may be laid before the General Grand Chapter at its approaching septennial convocation, in September, 1826.

JOHN M'KINNEY, JR.,

ROBERT JOHNSTON,

October, A. D., 1825.

DABNEY C. COSBY.

Which having been read, were, on motion, referred to a committee, composed of Most Excellent Companions Dean, Hubbard, Cotton, Cozier and Cushman, to consider and report thereon.

The General Grand Chapter adjourned until 9 o'clock, tomorrow morning.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1826.

General Grand Chapter met.

Most Excellent Wm. H. Jones, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Connecticut, and Excellent John Scott, Grand King of the Grand Chapter of N. J. appeared.

A resolution was passed, giving to the members of the General Grand Chapter the privilege of introducing Royal Arch Masons as visitors.

The committee to whom was referred the Resolution and Memorial of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, after having given due notice thereof, made the following Report, to wit :

The committee of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, to whom were referred the resolution and memorial from the Grand Chapter of the State of Kentucky, respectfully report, that after having examined the same and other documents in relation thereto,—

Your committee find that :

First. The Grand Chapter of Maine had considered the subject and committed it to the first four officers of their Grand Chapter with full power to act thereon.

Second. The Grand Chapter of New Hampshire, referred the

subject to a committee with full power to act thereon. That committee considered it inexpedient to dissolve the General Grand Chapter, and communicated that opinion to the Grand Chapter of Kentucky.

Third. The Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, considered the subject, and referred the same to their first four officers with full power to act thereon.

Fourth. The Grand Chapter of Connecticut, referred the subject to a committee who will probably report thereon in May next.

Fifth. The Grand Chapter of Vermont, in their deliberations on the subject, *Resolved*, That it was inexpedient to dissolve the General Grand Chapter, which resolution was communicated to the General Grand Secretary.

Sixth. The Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, referred the subject to a committee, who have not made a report.

Seventh. The Grand Chapter of New York, referred the subject to their first four officers, with full power to act on the same.

They were unanimous in opinion, that it was inexpedient to dissolve the General Grand Chapter—and communicated their decision to the General Grand Chapter, and also to the Grand Chapter of Kentucky.

Eighth. The Grand Chapter of Maryland, considered the subject, and dissented from the resolution of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky.

Ninth. The Grand Chapter of North Carolina, having taken the subject into consideration—concurred in the resolution of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky.

Tenth. The Grand Chapter of South Carolina, have furnished no Communications on the subject. It is understood, however, the delegates from the State are opposed to the dissolution of the General Grand Chapter.

Eleventh. The Grand Chapter of Ohio, as your committee are informed, have concurred in the resolution of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky.

Twelfth. The Grand Chapter of Tennessee, it is understood, have not taken the subject into consideration.

Thirteenth. The Grand Chapter of Alabama, as your committee are informed, have considered the subject—and also that they have dissented from the resolution of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky.

Your committee therefore are of opinion that as a majority of the Grand Chapters of the several States, comprising the General Grand Chapter, having dissented from the resolution of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, it is not expedient for the General Grand Chapter to take any further measures on the subject.

All which is respectfully submitted,

PAUL DEAN,
THOMAS HUBBARD,
JOHN H. COTTON,
E. S. COZIER,
SAMUEL CUSHMAN,

Dated, at NEW YORK, *Sept. 15, 1826.*

Committee.

Which having been read, the further consideration of the same was on motion, referred to a committee of the whole.

The General Grand Chapter then resolved itself into a committee of the whole. M. E. John Snow, in the Chair. When the said report was again read, and after having been deliberately considered and discussed, it was agreed to report the same without amendment to the General Grand Chapter.

The committee of the whole then rose and reported to the General Grand Chapter, and the report was agreed to by Yeas and Nays as follows, to wit :

Yeas. DeWitt Clinton, Moses Richardson, John Snow, Peter Grinnell, 3 votes, John J. Loring, 2 votes, Asa Fitch, Ezra S. Cozier, Jonathan Nye, Orville Hungerford, Jonathan Eights, Caleb Brown, 2 votes, Thomas Hubbard, William H. Jones, Andrew Harris, Asa Child, Paul Dean, Samuel L. Knapp, Daniel L. Gibbins, John H. Cotton, 3 votes, Joel Clapp, Richard Pen-

nell, James Eyland, Lemuel Coleman, Liberty Olds, Joseph K. Stapleton, William G. Hunt, 5 votes, Samuel Cushman, Joseph W. White, 3 votes, Nathaniel Coffin 4 votes, Thaddeus Sandford, Edward S. Lewis, John E. Ruckell, Elias J. Thompson, John Scott.—49.

Nays. Edward King, George Keyser.—2.

A communication from the M. E. G. G. H. Priest, in relation to the formation of a Grand Chapter, in the District of Columbia, was read and committed with the papers accompanying the same, to M. E. Companions King, Fitch and Knapp.

On motion,

M. E. Companions Jonathan Nye, of Claremont, New Hampshire, Joseph Clapp, of Shelburne, Vermont, Edward King, of Chillicothe, Ohio, Asa Child, of Norwich, Connecticut, Edward S. Lewis, of Washington, District of Columbia, Thaddeus Sandford, of Mobile, Alabama, George Keyser, of Baltimore, Maryland, were appointed a committee to consider whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary in the General Grand Constitution, and report thereon.

The committee to whom were referred the papers and proceedings of the General Grand Officers of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, during the recess, and also a resolution offered by Companion Lewis, on the subject of Maryland, and District of Columbia Grand Chapters, having had the same under consideration, made the following report, to wit: That Charters have been granted to the States of New Jersey and Georgia, and also a dispensation to the District of Columbia, enabling the respective Chapters therein to form and hold Grand Chapters in the said States, by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, His Excellency DeWitt Clinton. That Charters have been granted to Mechanics' Chapter at Lexington, Georgia, on the 10th June, 1820, to Webb Chapter at Sparta, Georgia, on the 16th November, 1821, to Wadesborough Chapter, at Wadesborough, North Carolina, in 1822, by the Most Excellent Deputy General Grand High Priest, Henry Fowle.

That Charters have been granted to Vincennes Chapter, at Vincennes, State of Indiana, on 13th May, 1820, to Jennings Mark Lodge, at Vevay Indiana, on 4th May, 1821, to Franklin Chapter, at Franklin, Tennessee, on 25th March, 1824th, to Clarksville Chapter, at Clarksville, Tennessee, on 11th December, 1824, to La Fayette Chapter, at Columbia, Tennessee, on 5th January, 1825, by the Most Excellent General Grand King, John Snow.

That dispensations have been granted by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, his excellency DeWitt Clinton, for the following Chapters and Lodges, to wit : To Franklin and Union Chapters, in the State of Georgia, to Mobile Chapter, Alabama, Port Gibson Chapter, Mississippi, Franklin Chapter, No. 3, New Jersey, La Fayette Chapter, St. Francisville, Louisiana, Monroe Chapter, Claiborne, Alabama, Mark Lodge, St. Augustine, Mark Lodge, St. Francisville.

All which appear to your committee, to be in accordance with the duties of said officers, and to the constitution of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter, of the U. S. A. And your committee recommend the adoption of the resolution above alluded to.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

EDWARD KING,
ASA FITCH,
SAMUEL L. KNAPP.

Which having been read, the report was accepted—and the said resolution unanimously adopted.

. The committee appointed to audit the accounts of the General Grand Secretary and General Grand Treasurer. Reported as follows—to wit :

The undersigned, a committee appointed to audit the accounts of the General Grand Treasurer, and General Grand Secretary, beg leave to report ;

That they have attended to the duty assigned them ; and after having examined the accounts, together with the vouchers accompanying the same ; they find that during the recess, the General

Grand Secretary has received the sum of one hundred and seventy-six dollars : that he has paid out sundry small sums, for which he has produced satisfactory vouchers, leaving a balance belonging to the General Grand Chapter, of one hundred and eighteen dollars, which has been paid over to the General Grand Treasurer—they also find that the amount received by the General Grand Treasurer, including the balance in the Treasury, at the last meeting, is three hundred and sixty-eight dollars and sixty cents—that he has paid out sundry sums, amounting to two hundred and forty-one dollars and twenty-five cents, for which he has produced satisfactory vouchers, leaving a balance in the Treasury of one hundred and twenty-seven dollars and thirty-five cents.

Your committee have also taken into consideration the communication from the General Grand Secretary, which was referred to them, and find that the only subject therein mentioned, which in their opinion requires special notice, has been already made the subject of deliberation in the General Grand Chapter, and has been specially referred to another committee. They beg leave, therefore respectfully to recommend in relation to the said communication, the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Communication from Companion John Abbott, General Grand Secretary, be received and filed among the papers of the General Grand Chapter, and also, that the thanks of the General Grand Chapter be and the same are hereby presented to the Most Excellent John Abbott, for the faithful and unwearied discharge of his duties as General Grand Secretary.

Which having been read. On motion, the report was accepted, and the resolution unanimously adopted.

On motion, *Resolved*, That all documents in the hands of the General Grand Secretary, not otherwise disposed of, be referred to Most Excellent Companions White, Ruckell, Stapleton, Drown, and Richardson, for examination.

A memorial, from Monroe Chapter, held at Claiborne, in the State of Alabama, and a remonstrance of said Chapter, against the proceedings of the body, entitled the Grand Chapter of the

State of Alabama, together with a communication from said Grand Chapter, were, *on motion*, referred to Most Excellent Companions Knapp, Hunt and Eights.

On motion, Most Excellent Companions, Eyland, Child, and Lewis, were appointed a committee to inquire and report what measures, if any, are expedient to be adopted for introducing uniformity of work in the several Royal Arch Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

The General Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Officers, and His Excellency the M. E. DEWITT CLINTON was unanimously re-elected General Grand High Priest. Adjourned.

AFTERNOON.

The election of officers was concluded.

M. E. John Snow, of Worthington, Ohio, was duly elected
Deputy General Grand High Priest.

“ John Lyde Wilson, of Charleston, S. Carolina,
General Grand King.

“ Rev. Paul Dean, of Boston, Mass.,
General Grand Scribe.

“ Lebbeus Chapman, of New York City,
General Grand Secretary.

“ Peter Grinnell, of Providence, R. I.,
General Grand Treasurer.

“ Rev. Jonathan Nye, Claremont, New Hampshire,
General Grand Chaplain.

“ William G. Hunt, Nashville, Tennessee,
General Grand Marshal.

Adjourned.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1826.

General Grand Chapter met.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of inquiry, as to the measures necessary to be adopted in relation to an uniform mode of work, made the following report, viz :

That they find on examining the fourth Section of the first Article of the Constitution of this General Grand Chapter, that it is made the duty of the first four officers to perfect themselves in the work in these degrees, and to prescribe the mode of work for the Subordinate Chapters.

Your committee, therefore, are of opinion that no further measures are necessary to be adopted in relation to this subject, except it be to recommend that some one of the aforesaid Officers, previous to the closing of the General Grand Chapter, be requested to prescribe to the M. E. Companions, the mode of work, so far as relates to the particular subjects referred to your committee.

JAMES EYLAND, *per order.*

Which having been read, was on motion accepted.

The committee to whom were referred the documents in the hands of the General Grand Secretary (not otherwise disposed of) reported the following preamble and resolution, to wit :

Whereas, it appears from documents in the possession of this General Grand Chapter, that Grand Royal Arch Chapters have been legally and constitutionally formed, since the last meeting of this Body, within and for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Georgia and Tennessee, with the consent of one of the General Grand Officers, therefore,

Resolved, That the said Grand Chapters be received and recognized as regular constitutional bodies, under the authority and sanction of this General Grand Chapter, and all Royal Arch Masons, within this jurisdiction, are hereby required to regard each of the same as entitled to all the rights and privileges of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter, within the States for which they have been respectively formed.

JOSEPH W. WHITE, *per order.*

Adopted.

The committee, to whom was referred the subject of alterations in the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, reported as follows to wit :

That they recommend the striking out the word, "*Septennial*," in the second line of the second section of the General Grand Constitution, and insert the word, "*TRIENNIAL*." And also submit for the consideration of the General Grand Chapter, the following resolution to wit :

Resolved, That the said committee have leave to act during the recess of the General Grand Chapter, and prepare such amendments to the General Grand Constitution, and rules and regulations for the government of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter, as they in their judgment shall deem necessary, and that they have liberty to print the same and furnish each Grand Chapter with four copies, and each General Grand Officer with one copy ; and that the same be submitted to the ultimate decision of the General Grand Chapter. And also that the committee have leave to draw on the General Grand Treasurer for the contingent expenses of the same.

JONATHAN NYE, *Chairman*.

Which report having been read, was ordered to lie on the table.

On motion,

The General Grand Officers elect, were severally inducted into their respective offices agreeably to the ancient customs and usages of the Fraternity.

The report of the committee on the amendment of the General Grand Constitution was taken up and considered.

The resolution granting the committee leave to act during the recess, was adopted.

The recommendation changing the word "*septennial*" to *triennial*, was lost Ayes 17, Noes 17.

[This vote was reconsidered on the 18th of September, and the recommendation of the committee unanimously adopted.]

During the debate on this question, a debate arose upon the inquiry, whether a General Grand Officer of the General Grand Chapter, and who is at the same time a Grand Officer of a State Grand Chapter, shall, or shall not be, by virtue of the said offices,

entitled to two votes in this General Grand Chapter. The M. E. John Snow, being in the chair, decided in the affirmative.

Whereupon an appeal was made, and the General Grand Chapter resolved to concur in his opinion.

The question was then taken and lost, Ayes 17, Nays 17.

The committee having under consideration the memorial of Monroe Royal Arch Chapter, Alabama, and the communication from the Grand Chapter of Alabama, made the following report, *to wit* :

The undersigned, a committee to whom was referred a memorial from Monroe Chapter, held at Claiborne, in the State of Alabama, and a remonstrance of said Chapter against the proceedings of the body entitled "the Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama," together with a communication from said Grand Chapter, beg leave respectfully to report ;

That they have carefully examined the documents referred to, and have heard the statements of facts, views and opinions, relating thereto, of the companions respectfully representing the said Monroe Chapter, and the said Grand Chapter of Alabama, from all which they are satisfied, that the unfortunate differences which have existed among the fraternity in that State, have resulted entirely from a misconstruction of the General Grand Constitution, and of the rights, privileges and duties resulting therefrom.

Your committee regret that the copy of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Alabama, referred to in the letter from the Secretary of that body, as having been transmitted by the same mail, has not been received, although, we are happy to add, the facts which appear from the documents, within our reach, are sufficient to settle the principles, which must constitute the basis of this report. A reference to the date of the dispensation of Monroe Chapter, which commenced its existence in the month of February 1823, and to that of the meeting at Mobile, at which it was resolved and attempted to form a Grand Chapter for the State of Alabama, viz. : the third Monday of May, 1823, will at once demonstrate the unconstitutionality of the proceedings of that meeting, and the subsequent illegality and want of due authority, of

the body claiming the title, and exercising the rights and privileges of the Grand Chapter of Alabama. The 11th section of the 2d Article of the General Grand Constitution, under the authority of which the aforesaid meeting was held at Mobile, expressly provides, "that no new State Grand Chapter shall be formed until after the expiration of one year from the establishment of the junior Chapter in such State." It was therefore most obviously unconstitutional and unwarrantable to form a Grand Chapter for the State of Alabama, until after Monroe Chapter, which was then the Junior Chapter in said State, had been in existence for at least one year, which, as will be seen by reference to the dates aforesaid, was not the case at the time, when the body styled the Grand Chapter of Alabama, commenced its operations. We deem it unnecessary therefore, to go into an investigation of any other facts connected with the formation or subsequent proceedings of that body, in order to settle the extent of its powers, or the authority of its decisions. Without attributing to the Companions composing the convention at Mobile, any intention to act prematurely or to assume power not constitutionally and fairly belonging to them, we are compelled to say that their attempt at that time to form a Grand Chapter for the State was expressly prohibited by the article above referred to, in the General Grand Constitution, and that, as a necessary consequence, all the acts and doings of that body as a Grand Chapter of the State, have been unconstitutional. In coming to this conclusion, it will be seen, that we have intentionally avoided all reference to the facts stated in the remonstrance of Monroe Chapter as the grounds of their complaint, and have thought it unnecessary and inexpedient to express any opinion in relation thereto. It is sufficient for us and the fraternity, that we have ascertained, as we believe, beyond the possibility of a reasonable doubt, that the formation of a Grand Chapter for the State of Alabama, at the time it was attempted, was prohibited by our Constitution, and therefore impracticable. The consequence inevitably follows, without entering upon doubtful or disputed topics, that the body claiming that title, and exercising the rights and

privileges resulting therefrom, has never had a legitimate or constitutional existence. It appears, however, to be of the utmost importance to the prosperity of the Craft, in that interesting and growing section of our country, and due to the feelings, characters, and standing of the Companions, who, from oversight or misapprehension of the Constitution, organized that body, and their successors, that some step should be taken by this General Grand Chapter, to legalize and give a retrospective and retroactive sanction to its past proceedings, with such limitations and restrictions as may seem to be required by the principles of the Constitution, and the Masonic rights of others, who may be effected thereby.

Your committee therefore, beg leave respectfully, to recommend the adoption of the following resolutions—to wit :

Resolved, That the formation of a Grand Chapter, for the State of Alabama, in May 1823, prior to “the expiration of one year from the establishment of the Junior Chapter in such State,” was prohibited by the 11th Section of the 2d Article, of the General Grand Constitution, and that therefore this General Grand Chapter cannot ratify or approve the proceedings of the Convention held at Mobile, on the third Monday of May, 1823, or recognize the Body claiming to be considered as the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

Resolved, That the M. E. General Grand High Priest, be requested to renew, or continue the Charters, or dispensations of the Royal Arch Chapters, which existed at Tuscaloosa, Cahawba, Mobile and Claiborne, in the State of Alabama, on the third Monday of May, 1823, provided they, or either of them, may have expired, or be about to expire, with such limitation respectively, as he may deem proper.

Resolved, That the Charters and Dispensations which may have been granted and issued from the body styling itself the Grand Chapter of Alabama, creating Lodges and Chapters in the said State, and all the proceedings of said Lodges and Chapters, by virtue and under the authority of said Charters or Dispensations, so far as they may have been consistent with the great principles of

Masonry and the ancient landmarks of the order, be, and the same are hereby ratified, sanctioned and confirmed, and all Masons and Masonic Lodges under this jurisdiction are hereby required to regard and treat them as valid—and such of the said Charters and Dispensations, as may not previously expire by their own limitations, shall continue, and be in force, as though they had been constitutionally and legally granted, until the first day of September next.

Resolved, That whenever the four Chapters in the State of Alabama, deriving their authority from this General Grand Chapter, which were in existence on the third Monday in May, 1823, shall mutually agree to the formation of a Grand Chapter for said State, and shall, with the consent of a General Grand Officer, effect the same, all those Lodges and Chapters, which may have received warrants from the body now styling itself the Grand Chapter of Alabama, shall be received and recognized as regular constitutional Lodges and Chapters, and shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges, and vested with the same powers and authorities, as though they had obtained their Charters and Dispensations from the said new and constitutional Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the four Chapters first existing in the State of Alabama, to proceed, without delay, to the formation of a Grand Chapter in said State, and that the M. E. General Grand High Priest be requested, directly, or through the agency of some other of the Grand Officers, to use all possible exertions to facilitate the formation of said Grand Chapter, in a legal, constitutional, and harmonious manner, with a due regard to the feelings, characters, rights and duties, of all parties interested.

All which is respectfully submitted,

W. G. HUNT,
SAMUEL L. KNAPP,
JON. EIGHTS.

Which having been read, was on motion accepted, and the resolutions adopted unanimously.

The following resolutions, were on motion, referred to the committee on the revision of the General Grand Constitution, to wit :

Resolved, That no Royal Arch Mason, within the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, shall be permitted to confer any degree in Masonry, not recognized as a Constitutional degree, nor to establish any Society of Masons, not recognized as a Constitutional body.

Resolved further, That the first four officers of this General Grand Chapter, shall in all cases, have authority to decide all Constitutional questions arising under this resolve.

Provided, that this resolve shall not be so construed, as to extend to any degree recognized by the General Grand Encampment of the United States of America.

On motion, Resolved, That the M. E. Thaddeus Sandford, Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter of Alabama, be and he is hereby respectfully invited to retain his seat, during the remainder of the session. Adjourned.

SEPT. 18, 1826.

General Grand Chapter met.

City of New York fixed upon for the next meeting of the General Grand Chapter.

Vote by which striking out "Septennial," and inserting *Triennial*, was lost, reconsidered, and *Triennial Meetings* unanimously adopted.

On motion of M. E. Companion Knapp, it was *Resolved* unanimously, that a majority of the first four officers of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America, have power to grant Dispensations or Charters for Royal Arch Chapters, in any *Country, Republic or Territory* whatever, when in their opinion the good of the Craft shall require the establishment of the order.

The Committee on Finance reported \$2011 35 in the Treasury, recommending the payment of the Grand Officers, and sundry bills, in all \$525 94. Accepted and adopted.

M. E. Companion Loring's bill for attendance as proxy for the General Grand Secretary, was not allowed. The General Grand Chapter decided that no compensation shall be allowed any member of this General Grand Chapter, for attendance as proxy for a General Grand Officer.

No further business being offered for the consideration of the General Grand Chapter, the M. E. General Grand Chaplain made a solemn and impressive Address to the Throne of Grace.

And the General Grand Chapter was closed in solemn and ample form.

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

Agreeably to a resolution, September, 1826, the General Grand Chapter of the United States assembled at the City of New York, in the State of New York, on Thursday, September 10. 1829.

GENERAL GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT TO WIT :

M. E. John Snow, - - -	D. G. G. H. PRIEST.
" Lebbeus Chapman, - -	G. G. SECRETARY.
" Rev. Paul Dean, - -	G. G. SCRIBE, AS G. G. KING.
" Joseph K. Stapleton, as -	G. G. SCRIBE.
" Peter Grennell, - -	G. G. TREASURER.
" Rev. Jonathan Nye, - -	G. G. CHAPLAIN.

The following named Companions appeared, presented their credentials as Officers, and proxies of Officers of the State Grand Chapters, viz :

From Massachusetts.

M. E. Daniel I. Gibbons, of Boston, - -	G. H. PRIEST.
" Samuel Clarke, of Princeton, Worcester County, - - - - -	G. SCRIBE.
" John P. Bigelow, of Boston, as proxy for	
" R. S. Spofford, - - - - -	G. KING.

M. E. Thomas Toleman, of Canton, Norfolk
Co., as proxy for

“ R. Huntoon, - - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

From New Hampshire.

M. E. Frederick A. Sumner, Charleston, - G. H. PRIEST. J

“ Isaac W. Hubbard, as proxy for

“ Horace Chase, - - - - G. KING.

From Vermont.

M. E. Rev. Joel Clapp, of Bethel, - - G. H. PRIEST.

“ Hannibal Hodges, Clarendon, - - G. KING.

“ Philip Tucker, Vergennes, - - G. SCRIBE.

From Maine.

M. E. Amos Nourse, Hallowell, - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

He also appeared as proxy for

“ Nathaniel Coffin, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

“ H. Seaver, - - - - G. KING.

From Rhode Island.

M. E. Paul Dean, Providence, as proxy for

“ Caleb Drown, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

From New York.

M. E. Richard Pennell, of New York, - G. H. PRIEST.

“ Ezra Cozier, Utica, - - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

From Maryland.

M. E. Joseph K. Stapleton, of Baltimore, - G. H. PRIEST.

And proxy for

“ Philip Eckel, - - - - P. G. G. SCRIBE.

“ James King, - - - - G. KING.

“ George Keyser, Baltimore, - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

He also appeared as proxy for

“ Thomas W. Hall, - - - - G. SCRIBE.

From South Carolina.

M. E. James Eyland, Charleston, - - G. H. PRIEST.

He also appeared as proxy for

“ James C. Morris, - - - G. SCRIBE.

“ Edward Sebring, proxy for

“ Alex. McDonald, - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

“ Samuel L. Knapp, proxy for

“ Edward S. Courtney, - - - G. KING.

From District of Columbia.

M. E. Samuel L. Knapp, proxy for

“ W. W. Seaton, - - - G. H. PRIEST.

“ J. B. Hammond, - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

“ E. S. Lewis, - - - G. KING.

“ Jonathan Caruther, - - - G. SCRIBE.

From Louisiana.

M. E. Alex. E. McConnell, of New Orleans, DELEGATE.

From Province of Upper Canada.

Companion James Robinson Wright,

High Priest of Union Chapter, Kingston.

The General Grand Chapter was, after having been duly organized, and prayers by the Most Excellent General Grand Chaplain, opened in due and solemn form.

The General Grand Secretary then laid before the General Grand Chapter various communications, which were read and distributed to appropriate committees for consideration and report.

A committee was raised to take into consideration and report the most suitable measures to be adopted by the General Grand Chapter in relation to the death of the late General Grand High Priest, DeWitt Clinton. This committee subsequently made a report, which was read and adopted.

The following committees were also raised, to wit :

Companions Keyser, Cozier and Child, on the proceedings of General Grand Officers during the recess.

Companions Tucker, Nourse and Pennell, on the Secretary and Treasurer's accounts, and on Finances.

Companions Nourse, Toleman and Gibbons, on the memorial of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana.

Companions Clapp, Cozier and Toleman, on a communication from Most Excellent Joseph K. Stapleton, on the subject of the Degrees of Royal and Select Master.

Most Excellent Companion Nye, Chairman of the committee appointed at the last triennial meeting, on the revision of the General Grand Constitution, made a report thereon, which was read and considered at length in committee of the whole during several sittings for that purpose, and resulted in the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

SECTION 1. There shall be a General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America, which shall be holden triennially, on the second Tuesday in September, at such place as shall from time to time be designated for that purpose, and at which time the General Grand Officers shall be elected by ballot, and installed.

SEC. 2. The General Grand Chapter shall have and maintain jurisdiction over all State Grand Chapters, and over Chapters in those States, Districts, Republics, or Territories, which recognize this jurisdiction, and where there is no Grand Chapter regularly established, agreeably to the provisions of this Constitution; and shall have the authority to suspend the proceedings of such State Grand Chapters, and such Chapters in States where there is no Grand Chapter, as may knowingly violate any of the provisions of this Constitution; to settle all difficulties which may arise, and to give such advice and instruction as may seem most conducive to

their peace, and to the advancement of the great cause of benevolence and virtue.

SEC. 3. The officers of the General Grand Chapter shall consist of a General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, General Grand Scribe, General Grand Secretary, General Grand Treasurer, General Grand Chaplain, and General Grand Marshal ; these, together with the first four officers of the several State Grand Chapters under this jurisdiction, or the regular proxies of the said first four officers of the said State Grand Chapters, shall compose the General Grand Chapter.

SEC. 4. On all questions to be decided by the General Grand Chapter, each State Grand Chapter shall be entitled to four votes by its representative or representatives.

SEC. 5. The General Grand High Priest and Deputy General Grand High Priest, shall have authority to call a meeting of the General Grand Chapter, whenever they may consider it expedient or necessary ; and it shall be their duty so to do, when properly requested by a majority of the State Grand Chapters, of which four months notice shall be given of the time and place of meeting.

SEC. 6. The General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, shall severally have power and authority to grant Dispensations or Charters for new Royal Arch Chapters, in any State, Country, Republic or Territory, in which there is not a Grand Chapter regularly established, when, in their opinion, the good of the Craft shall require the establishment of the order ; but no new Chapter shall be established in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, where there is a Chapter within a reasonable distance, under the authority of this jurisdiction, without the approbation of the Chapter nearest to the place where said new Chapter is proposed to be located.

SEC. 7. The fees for instituting a new Royal Arch Chapter, with subordinate degrees, shall be ninety dollars, and no more ; and the Secretary shall be paid by the petitioners ten dollars for his services in furnishing the Charter.

The fees in the several States for conferring the several degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, shall not be less than twenty dollars ; and the fees for the advancement of a candidate to the degree of Mark Master in all Lodges and Chapters shall not be less than four dollars, and no credit shall be given for Charters, or for conferring the degrees, in any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction. And any Chapter holden by Dispensation or Warrant from either of the offices of the General Grand Chapter authorized to give them, shall pay into the treasury of the General Grand Chapter, the sum of two dollars for each Companion hereafter exalted.

[The remainder of Art. I., and the whole of Art. II., are verbatim, like the Constitution of 1850, with the exception of the substitution of "Warrant" for *Charter*, in nearly every place where it occurs, and the striking out of the word "Dispensation" in Sec. 5 and 7, of Art. II., and addition in Sec. 6, Art. II., of the words "and Lodges" after *Chapters*.]

ARTICLE III.

OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS AND LODGES.

SECTION 1. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Lodge of Mark Master Masons, throughout this jurisdiction, shall have a warrant of Constitution from the Grand Chapter of the State in which they may be respectively holden, or a warrant from one of the General Grand Officers, and no Chapter shall be deemed legal without such warrant ; and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden, between any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction or any member of either of them, and any Chapter, Lodge, or assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened, or holden, without such Charter, or any or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge. But nothing in this Section shall be construed to affect any Chapter or Lodge which was established before the adoption of the Grand Royal Arch Constitution, at Hartford, on the 27th day of January, A. D. 1798.

[The 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th Sections of this Article are word for word, like those of 1850.]

SEC. 6. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular stated meeting of the General Grand Chapter, with the approbation of two-thirds of the voters present, and not otherwise.

The remainder of this Constitution "*on constituting new Chapters*," is, verbatim like the Constitution of 1850.

SEC. 4 of Article 4 of the Constitution of 1850, is the foregoing Section 6 of this Constitution.

The committee to whom was referred a communication from the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, praying to be admitted within the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, have had the same under consideration, and report that in their opinion the best interests of Royal Arch Masonry require that the prayer of their petition should be granted.

They recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Louisiana be, and it is hereby admitted into union with the Grand Chapter under this jurisdiction, and entitled to all the rights, powers and privileges thereunto belonging, and that the Most Excellent Alexander McConnell, the delegate from said Grand Chapter, is admitted to a seat and vote in this General Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary be directed to inform Lafayette Chapter, at St. Francisville, that the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, having been recognized by this General Grand Chapter, said Lafayette Chapter will hereafter act under the immediate jurisdiction and authority of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana.

The said Report and Resolutions having been read, were on motion unanimously adopted.

The following Report from the committee to whom was referred the communication of Companion J. K. Stapleton, was received, read, and the resolutions adopted, to wit :

Whereas, It is satisfactorily proved to this General Grand Chapter that the Constitution of Councils of Royal and Select Master

Masons, in different parts of the United States, by sundry persons, has been without any legitimate authority ; and Whereas, those degrees are conferred in some Chapters under the authority of the General Grand Chapter ; and Whereas, it was proved that it was the sole intention of the M. E. Companions from whom those degrees emanated, that they should be conferred under the authority of Royal Arch Chapters. Therefore,

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter cordially recommend to the different Councils in the United States to adopt measures to place those degrees under the authority of the State Grand Chapters.

Resolved, That authority be, and is hereby granted to the several Grand Chapters, to make such arrangements as shall be found necessary for conferring the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in Royal Arch Chapters ; Provided always, that no Grand Chapter within the limits of which is a Grand Council, shall authorize the Royal Arch Chapters under its jurisdiction, to confer such degrees without the consent of such Grand Council.

(Signed,)

JOEL CLAPP, *per order*.

The General Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of Officers, with the following result, to wit :

M. E. and Hon. Edward Livingston, of Louisiana,

General Grand High Priest.

“ Hon. Joel R. Poinsett, of Charleston, S. C.,

Deputy General Grand High Priest.

“ Rev. Paul Dean, Boston, Mass ,

General Grand King.

“ Joseph K. Stapleton, Maryland,

General Grand Scribe.

“ Lebbeus Chapman, New York,

General Grand Secretary.

“ Peter Grennell, Rhode Island,

General Grand Treasurer.

M. E. and Rev. Jonathan Nye, New Hampshire,
General Grand Chaplain.

“ Amos Nourse, Maine,
General Grand Marshal.

Companion Keyser, from the committee on the “ proceedings of the General Grand Officers, during the recess,” made the following report, to wit :

The committee to whom was referred the papers and proceedings of the General Grand Officers of the General Grand Chapter of the U. S., report, that it appears from the papers submitted to them, that the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, DeWitt Clinton, presented a dispensation on the 9th day of February, 1828, to James Robinson Wright, and others, to form, open, and hold a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the Town of Kingston, in the Province of Upper Canada, for which the fees were paid into his hands, and that Most Excellent John Snow, Deputy General Grand High Priest, granted a dispensation on the 18th day of March, 1828, to John F. Ryland and others, to form, open, and hold a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, at the Town of Franklin, Howard County, in the State of Missouri, for which the fees have not been received. The committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary be directed to engross a warrant for Union Chapter at Kingston, Upper Canada, which, when executed, to transmit to the same, and to give the Companions authority to retain their dispensation, agreeably to their request, as a memorial of so great and good a man as was our late brother and companion, DeWitt Clinton.

GEO. KEYSER, *per order.*

Which having been read, was accepted, and the resolution adopted

On motion, *Resolved*, That the next triennial meeting of this General Grand Chapter, (which will be on the second Tuesday of

September, 1832,) shall be held in the City of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland.

The committee to whom were referred the Secretary and Treasurer's accounts, reported in detail, showing a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, after paying all expenses and allowances, of \$1,246 16.

The minutes of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter were read and approved, and the General Grand Chapter was duly closed, after prayer by the General Grand Chaplain.

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

At the time appointed for the meeting of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, (September, 1832,) the City of Baltimore, with many other cities of the United States, was afflicted with Cholera, which rendered it improper to hold the meeting at that time. The General Grand Officers therefore directed the triennial meeting to be called for the transaction of the regular business of the General Grand Chapter, on Wednesday, the 28th day of November, 1832.

Accordingly, on that day, the triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Baltimore, and opened in due form, and with solemn prayer.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp. Rev. Paul Dean,	-	G. G. K., as G. G. H. P.
" " J. K. Stapleton,	-	G. G. S., as G. G. K.
" " J. M. Allen, N. Y., as		G. G. SCRIBE.
" " J. Herring, N. Y., as	-	G. G. SECRETARY.
" " Peter Grennell,	-	G. G. TREASURER.
" " George Keyser, of Md.,		G. G. MARSHAL.

And the Representatives of the Grand Chapters of the States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Con-

necticut, New York, Maryland, District of Columbia, Louisiana and Ohio.

The M. E. Companions Myers, Keyser and Crawford, were appointed a committee to examine the credentials of representatives.

M. E. Companion Myers moved that Companion Robert Young be appointed assistant General Grand Sentinel of the General Grand Chapter during the present session; which motion was seconded, put, and lost; but leave was granted Companion Young to visit the General Grand Chapter during the session.

A committee, consisting of Companions J. T. Peters, C. Gilman and A. D. Scovell, was appointed on Finance, and General Grand Secretary and Treasurer's accounts.

Also, a committee consisting of Companions Fiske, Haswell and Baldwin, on the transactions of the General Grand Officers, since the last triennial meeting.

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report that they have attended to the duty assigned them, and that the following Companions are duly authorized as representatives in this General Grand Chapter, to wit:

M. E. Comp. N. B. Haswell, G. H. PRIEST, of the State of Vermont, and proxy of

“ D. G. H. PRIEST, G. KING and G. SCRIBE, of the same.

“ Comp. Charles Gilman, proxy for the Officers of the Grand Chapter of New Hampshire.

“ Comp. Josiah J. Fiske, G. H. PRIEST, of the State of Massachusetts.

“ Comp. Edward A. Raymond, G. KING of the same.

“ “ Jacob Arnee, proxy for Chas. Willis, G. SCRIBE.

“ “ J. W. Crawford, G. KING, of the State of Conn.

“ “ A. D. Scovell, G. SCRIBE of the same.

“ “ James M. Allen, G. H. PRIEST, of the State of N. Y.

“ “ M. Myers, D. G. H. PRIEST, of the same.

“ “ George Keyser, P. G. H. PRIEST, of Maryland, and proxy for the Grand Chapter of Louisiana.

- M. E. Comp. W. L. Billing, proxy for
 “ Marmaduke Dove, G. S.
 “ Comp. G. W. Haller, D. G. H. PRIEST of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.
 “ “ C. H. Peters, G. KING.
 “ “ Jesse T. Peters, G. S., and
 “ “ Thomas Phoenix, G. S., of the Grand Chapter of Md.
 “ “ James Salisbury, proxy for
 “ Christian N. Nestell, G. S., of the Grand Chapter of R. I.
 “ Comp. Samuel Stokely, G. H. PRIEST, of Ohio.
 “ “ James Herring, of New York, proxy for
 “ Lebbeus Chapman, G. G. SECRETARY.

(Signed,)

M. MEYERS,
 GEO. KEYSER,
 J. W. CRAWFORD.

THURSDAY, Nov. 29, 1832.

General Grand Chapter met.

A communication was received from the M. E. Companion Haswell, in relation to the state of Masonry in Vermont, which was read, and with the accompanying documents ordered to be laid on the table.

M. E. Companion Nye offered the following resolution, which was adopted, to wit :

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to take into consideration the present situation of our Institution, and recommend such things and measures as they in their wisdom may consider expedient and necessary.

[This committee was then raised, and the communication from M. E. Companion Haswell, in relation to the state of Masonry in Vermont, together with the accompanying documents, was also referred to it. The committee subsequently reported at length upon the subjects of the resolution offered by M. E. Companion Nye ; embracing also, the communication of M. E. Companion Haswell, in relation to the state of Masonry in Vermont. It is not deemed necessary or desirable to insert this report here, as the dis-

cussions contained in it, and the measures recommended by it, having special reference to the peculiar condition of things at that time, have long since ceased to possess any particular interest for the Order:.]

FRIDAY, Nov. 30, 1832.

The General Grand Chapter met and proceeded to the election of its Officers.

A letter was received and read, from the Most Excellent and Hon. General Grand High Priest, Edward Livingston, expressing his regret at, and stating the reason for his absence from the present meeting of the General Grand Chapter.

The following is the result of the election.

M. E. & Hon. Edw. Livingston, (unani'y,)	G. G. H. Priest.
“ “ J. R. Poinsett, (unani'y,)	D. G. G. H. Priest.
“ Rev. Paul Dean,	G. G. King.
“ Joseph K. Stapleton, (unanimously,)	G. G. Scribe.
“ Rev. Jonathan Nye,	G. G. Secretary.
“ Peter Grennell,	G. G. Treasurer.
“ Rev. Charles S. Williams, of Balt.,	G. Gr Chaplain.

[A committee appointed yesterday in relation to the next meeting of the General Grand Chapter, reported in favor of holding it at Washington, on the first Monday in December, 1835, which report was agreed to, and the Constitution was amended accordingly.]

SATURDAY, Dec. 1, 1832.

General Grand Chapter met.

Communications were received from the Grand Chapters of Maryland and the District of Columbia, certifying, that under a commission from the General Grand Chapter, issued in December 1829, they had installed the Most Excellent and Hon. Ed. Livingston, General Grand High Priest elect, of this General Grand Chapter, and the Most Excellent Hon. Joel R. Poinsett, Deputy General Grand High Priest elect, into their respective Offices, on the 3d of April, 1830.

Companion Haswell offered a resolution of thanks to the Most Excellent and Rev. Jona. Nye, for his Christian and Masonic labors as the General Grand Chaplain of this body, for the last twenty-six years, which was adopted.

Companion Keyser offered a resolution of thanks to our worthy Companion, James Herring, Esq., of New York, for the able and obliging manner with which he has discharged the duty of General Grand Secretary to the General Grand Chapter during its present session, which was adopted.

The General Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of a General Grand Marshal, and on the ballots being counted, it appeared that Most Excellent Companion Mordecai Meyers, of New York, was duly elected to that office.

The following resolutions were adopted unanimously, to wit:

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia be requested to receive the renewal of the oath of Office from the Hon. Edward Livingston, on his acceptance of the Office of General Grand High Priest of the United States, and that the Grand Offices of the said Grand Chapter make the necessary arrangements to perform the same.

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of the State of South Carolina be requested to receive the renewal of the oath of office from the Hon. J. R. Poinsett, on his acceptance of the office of Deputy General Grand High Priest of the United States, and that the Grand Officers of said Grand Chapter make the necessary arrangements for the performance of the same, and that a copy of said resolutions be sent to the above Grand Chapters, by the General Grand Secretary, under the seal of the General Grand Chapter.

Most Excellent Rev. Companion Nye, resigned the office of General Grand Secretary, and his resignation was accepted, and a new election ordered.

The ballots being received and counted, it appeared that Companion James Herring was elected General Grand Secretary.

The committee on the Secretary and Treasurer's accounts, reported in detail in respect to the Grand Treasurer's accounts,

showing a balance in his hands, after all payments and allowances made, of \$526 23. The account of the Grand Secretary being incomplete and unaccompanied by the necessary vouchers, was returned to the Grand Chapter for its further disposition, and referred to a committee with power to settle it.

Companion Gilman offered the following resolution, which was adopted and referred to Companions Gilman, Haswell and Fiske, viz. :

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the present state of the funds of the General Grand Chapter ; to correspond with the several Grand Chapters upon the subject of increasing the same, and to report the result of their deliberations at the next meeting of this body.

The Most Excellent Grand King, Scribe, Secretary, Treasurer and Marshal, were severally installed into office.

The installation of the Most Excellent and Rev. Companion Williams, General Grand Chaplain elect, was referred to the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

The minutes of the General Grand Chapter were then read and approved, and the General Grand Chapter closed the session with solemn prayer by the M. E. Companion Rev. Paul Dean.

JAMES HERRING,
General Grand Secretary.

NINTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

The Triennial Meeting of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, was held at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Washington, on Monday, the 7th day of December, 1835.

PRESENT :

The M. E. Comp. Jonathan Nye, as	-	-	G. G. H. PRIEST.
“ “ “ James Herring,	-	-	G. G. SEC.
“ “ “ Peter Grennell,	-	-	G. G. TREAS.

And Delegates from the several State Grand Chapters under this jurisdiction.

The General Grand Chapter was opened with the usual solemnities.

On motion of Comp. R. Pannell, of New York, a Committee on Credentials was appointed, consisting of Richard Pannell, of New York, Edward A. Raymond, of Massachusetts, Ingoldsby W. Crawford, of Connecticut.

The M. E. Comp. Paul Dean, G. G. King, and M. E. Comp. Joseph K. Stapleton, G. G. Scribe, were then announced, and on being admitted, the M. E. G. G. King took the chair.

The Committee on Credentials reported in part as follows, that they have attended to the duty assigned them, and find the following Companions entitled to seats in the General Grand Chapter, to wit :

From New York.

M. E. Comp. T. B. Van Vechten,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
“ “ Richard Pannell,	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
“ “ Nathan Gillett,	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From New Hampshire.

M. E. Comp. B. L. Greenough,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
“ “ Isaac Hill,	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
“ “ Jonathan Nye,	-	-	G. KING.

From Massachusetts.

M. E. Comp. E. A. Raymond,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
“ “ S. W. Robinson,	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From District of Columbia.

M. E. Comp. W. W. Billing,	-	-	G. KING.
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From Ohio.

M. E. Comp. John Barney, proxy for the	-	G. H. P. & G. K.
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From Connecticut.

M. E. Comp. J. W. Crawford,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
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Which report was accepted and approved. Adjourned.

DEC. 8, 1835.

General Grand Chapter met.

The Committee on Credentials further reported that there are in attendance, as Representatives of the Grand Chapter of

Maryland.

M. E. Comp. G. W. Haller,	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
" " C. G. Peters,	-	-	-	G. KING.
" " C. Gilman, proxy for				
" J. T. Peters,	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

(Signed,)

R. PANNELL,
E. A. RAYMOND,

The committee appointed at the last Triennial Meeting to take into consideration the funds of the General Grand Chapter, having had no meeting upon that subject since the last session of the Gen. Grand Chapter, and there being but one member of said committee present at this time, on motion of Comp. Gilman, the committee was discharged from the further consideration of that subject.

The M. E. Companion Van Vechten, on behalf of Companions Samuel M. Williams, James H. C. Miller, and others associated with them, then made an application for a Charter to constitute a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Texas, which was referred to a committee consisting of Companions Van Vechten, Raymond and Crawford.

On motion of Comp. Raymond,

Resolved, That the eighth Section of the second Article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, be referred to a committee for revision and amendment.

On motion of Comp. Nye,

Resolved, That the first Section of the first Article be referred to a committee for the same purpose.

Whereupon the subject matter of both the two last resolutions were referred to the M. E. Companions Raymond, Van Vechten and Crawford.

Afterwards, the Committee on the proposed alterations of the Constitution, made the following report, which was adopted, to wit :

'That the first Section of the first Article be altered by striking out the words "first Monday in December," and substituting therefor, "second Tuesday of September."

That the eighth Section of the second Article be amended, by striking out the following words, "and also a copy of their proceedings annually."

DEC. 9, 1835.

General Grand Chapter met.

The Committee on Finance made a report in detail, showing a balance remaining in the hands of the Treasurer, after paying all expenses and allowances, of \$213 52.

The committee to whom was referred the application of Companions Samuel M. Williams, James C. Miller, and other Royal Arch Masons of Texas, associated with them for a warrant or charter, for a Royal Arch Chapter to be located at San Filipe de Austin, respectfully report,

That in their opinion the application is proper, and ought to be granted. And they would respectfully recommend, that a warrant or charter, by the name of San Filipe de Austin Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1, of Texas, issue to Companion Williams, as High Priest, and Companion Miller, as King, with authority to them to fill up the other offices. And they would further recommend, that the Deputy Grand High Priest of New York be, and he is hereby authorized to install into the office of High Priest of said Chapter, Companion Samuel M. Williams.

By order of the committee,

(Signed,) JACOB T. B. VAN VECHTEN, *Ch'n.*

Which report was approved and adopted.

The General Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of its officers for the ensuing three years, with the following result, viz.:

Most E. Companion Edward Livingston, General Grand High Priest ; Most Excellent Companion Joel R. Poinsett, Deputy

General Grand High Priest; Most Excellent Companion Paul Dean, General Grand King; Most Excellent Companion Jos. K. Stapleton, General Grand Scribe; Most Excellent Companion Charles Gilman, General Grand Secretary; Most Excellent Companion Edward A. Raymond, General Grand Treasurer; Most Excellent Companion Rev. Frederick Clark, General Grand Chaplain; Most Excellent Companion Ingoldsby W. Crawford, General Grand Marshal.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That when the General Grand Chapter adjourns, it adjourns to meet in the City of Boston, on the second Tuesday of September, 1838.

The Most Excellent Companions Paul Dean, General Grand King, and J. K. Stapleton, General Grand Scribe, were then presented for installation, and renewed their oaths of office.

The Most Excellent Companions Charles Gilman, General Grand Secretary elect; Edward A. Raymond, General Grand Treasurer elect; Frederick Clark, General Grand Chaplain elect; and J. W. Crawford, General Grand Marshal elect, were severally presented, and duly installed into office.

Proclamation was then made by the General Grand Marshal, that the offices of the General Grand Chapter present were now duly installed into office, and that the General Grand Chapter was about to adjourn for the ensuing three years.

Resolutions were then offered and adopted unanimously, tendering the thanks of the General Grand Chapter to the Most Excellent Companions James Herring of New York, the late General Grand Secretary, and to the Most Excellent Peter Grennell, late General Grand Treasurer, for the able and faithful manner in which they have performed the duties of their respective offices; and the present General Grand Secretary was directed to forward to each of them a copy of such resolutions.

The minutes of the General Grand Chapters were then read and approved, after which the General Grand Chapter was closed with solemn prayer, by the Most Excellent Grand Chaplain.

(Signed,) CHARLES GILMAN, G. G. Sec.

TENTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

The Triennial Meeting of the General Grand Chapter was held at the Masonic Temple in the City of Boston, on the 11th day of September, 1838.

M. E. Rev. Paul Dean, as	-	-	-	G. G. H. PRIEST.
" Joseph K. Stapleton, as	-	-	-	G. G. KING.
" Ebenezer Wentworth, as	-	-	-	G. G. SCRIBE.
" Charles Gilman,	-	-	-	G. G. SECRETARY.
" Edward A. Raymond,	-	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.
" J. W. Crawford,	-	-	-	G. G. MARSHAL.

The General Grand Chapter was opened in ancient and ample form, and with prayer by the M. E. Rev. Paul Dean.

A Committee on Credentials was appointed.

A resolution was adopted to appoint a Special Committee of one from each State represented, to take into consideration the General state of Masonry.

Companions Van Vechten, of N. Y., Robinson, of Mass., Smith, of N. H., Stapleton, of Maryland, and Gilman, of Ohio, were subsequently appointed said committee.

All Royal Arch Masons in good standing were invited to visit the General Grand Chapter.

The Committee on Credentials reported that the following Companions were entitled to seats:

From New Hampshire.

M. E. Robert Smith,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
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From Massachusetts.

M. E. Simon W. Robinson,	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
" John B. Hammatt,	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
" Elijah Atherton,	-	-	-	G. KING.
" Enoch Hobart,	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Connecticut.

M. E. William H. Ellis,	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
" J. W. Crawford, proxy for	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From New York.

M. E. Jacob T. B. Van Vechten,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
" Joseph Cuyler,	-	-	G. KING.
" Ebenezer Wadsworth,	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Maryland.

M. E. Joseph K. Stapleton,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
" C. G. Peters,	-	-	G. KING.

From Ohio.

M. E. Charles Gilman, proxy for	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
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Committees appointed, and General Grand Chapter Adjourned.

SEPT. 11, 1838.

General Grand Chapter met.

A communication from King Solomon's Chapter, Indiana, was referred to the Committee on the proceedings of General Grand Officers.

A committee was appointed to report a suitable notice of the death of M. E. Comp. Edward Livingston, late General Grand High Priest. Adjourned.

SEPT. 12, 1838.

General Grand Chapter met.

The General Grand Secretary informed the General Grand Chapter that he had in his possession certain documents, whereby it appeared that the M. E. Joel R. Poinsett, Deputy General Grand High Priest, had issued his dispensation, establishing a Royal Arch Chapter in the City of Macon, Georgia—that Comp. Poinsett had forwarded to him the constitutional fees for the same, with request that he would transmit them to the General Grand Treasurer, which he had done.

Said documents were referred to the Committee on the Proceedings of the General Grand Officers.

Committee on Credentials reported Most Excellent Coddington Billings, proxy for Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chap-

ter of Connecticut ; Most Excellent James M. Allen, proxy for Most Excellent J. R. Poinsett, Deputy General Grand High Priest.

A committee of three was appointed to examine what alteration, if any, is necessary to be made in the Constitution in relation to the duties of the General Grand Officers, relative to the funds of the General Grand Chapter. Companions Wadsworth, Smith and Dean were appointed.

4 o'clock, P. M., to-morrow, appointed as the time for electing Officers.

Companion Allen read two letters from Most Excellent Companion, Joel R. Poinsett, Deputy General Grand High Priest. The first one dated " Washington, June 7th, 1838," and stating that his public duties would not permit of his being present at the meeting of the General Grand Chapter, and appointing Companion Allen his proxy, declining a re-election, or an election to the office of General Grand High Priest.

The other dated " White Sulphur Springs, 23d Aug., 1838," stating indisposition, and reiterating his former declination.

Adjourned.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1838.

General Grand Chapter met.

The Grand Chapters of Massachusetts, New York and Maryland, responded favorably to a request of the General Grand Chapter at its last triennial meeting, for pecuniary aid.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

The General Grand Secretary reported his compliance with the directions of the General Grand Chapter, in relation to the defalcation of the late General Grand Secretary, Lebbeus Chapman.

Copies of General Grand Secretary Gilman's letters to Companion Chapman, to which no response was made, and his official announcement of Companion Chapman's expulsion from all the rights and privileges of the Masonic Fraternity, accompanied the report.

The General Grand Secretary also reported that a charter had been forwarded to San Filipe de Austin Chapter, in Texas ; and

that the sum of \$90 as fees for the same, had been paid over to the General Grand Treasurer. That he had received fifty-two dollars as dues to the General Grand Chapter from King Solomon's Chapter, at Richmond, Indiana, and had paid the same over to the General Grand Treasurer.

The General Grand Secretary made a further report, showing, in detail, the money that had come into his hands during the recess, amounting in the aggregate to \$412. The City of New York was fixed upon as the place for the next triennial meeting.

A report was made by the committee appointed to prepare a suitable tribute of respect to the memory of Edward Livingston, late General Grand High Priest, accompanied by a preamble and three orders.

1st. Devoting a page of the proceedings to an inscription to his memory. Which was done.

2d. That the General Grand Secretary cause the same to be printed with the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter. Which was also done.

3d. That the General Grand Secretary transmit copies of said proceedings to the family of the deceased.

The Committee on Finance reported in detail, and after stating the debits, credits and allowances, found a balance in the Treasury of \$466 24. And closing their report with a recommendation not to call on any of the Grand Chapters for contributions to the funds of the General Grand Chapter.

The report was accepted and adopted.

The Committee on the state of Masonry made a report. [But, as all the troubles of those times are passed and gone, the committee appointed to make this Compendium, see no cause for spreading that report here.]

The following Officers were elected:

Most Excellent Rev. Paul Dean, General Grand High Priest ;
Most Excellent Joseph K. Stapleton, Deputy General Grand High Priest ; Most Excellent T. B. Van Vetchen, General Grand King ;

Most Excellent Ingoldsby W. Crawford, General Grand Scribe ;
Most Excellent Charles Gilman, General Grand Secretary ; Most
Excellent Edward A. Raymond, General Grand Treasurer.

Adjourned.

SEPT. 14, 1838.

The General Grand Chapter met, and the election of Officers was continued, and the following Companions were elected:

M. E. David Butler, D. D., General Grand Chaplain; Most Excellent Ezra S. Barnum, General Grand Marshal.

The General Grand Officers were installed, except the General Grand Chaplain, who was not present, and the Grand Chapter of New York was requested to instal him.

The General Grand Chapter then

Resolved, That a committee of three Companions be appointed to revise and amend the General Grand Constitution, and to report at the next triennial meetings such amendments to the same as they may deem expedient and proper.

Companions Allen, Van Vechten and Wadsworth were appointed the committee.

The Committee on the doings of the General Grand Officers made a report in which they approved of the granting of a Dispensation by Most Excellent Companion Poinsett, June 21, 1838, for a Royal Arch Chapter at Macon, Georgia, and of the granting of dispensations as follows, by Most Excellent Companion Stapleton, viz. :

For a Chapter at Palmyra, Missouri.

For a Chapter at Richmond, Indiana.

The report closes with a resolution, directing a charter to be issued to the Chapter at Richmond, Indiana ; they having complied with the Constitution, and to the others whenever they make the Constitutional returns.

The report was accepted, and the resolution agreed to.

A resolution of thanks to the Hon. Joel R. Poinsett was unanimously adopted.

The credentials of Companion Moses Stephens, as proxy for Most Excellent B. S. Tappan, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee, were presented, and Companion Stephens, was admitted to a seat as a member of the General Grand Chapter.

The thanks of the General Grand Chapter were voted to the General Grand Officers present, and the General Grand Chapter was closed in due form.

ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

The Triennial Meeting of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, was held in the Chapter rooms of the Apollo, in the City of New York, on Tuesday, the 14th day of September, 1841.

PRESENT :

M. E. Rev. Paul Dean,	-	-	-	G. G. H. P.
" Richard Ellis, as	-	-	-	D. G. G. H. P.
" J. W. Crawford, as	-	-	-	G. G. K.
" Joseph Chuyler, as	-	-	-	G. G. SCRIBE.
" Ebenezer Wadsworth, as	-	-	-	G. G. SECRETARY.
" E. A. Raymond, -	-	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.
" Robert Punshon, as	-	-	-	G. G. CHAPLAIN.
" Ezra S. Barnum,	-	-	-	G. G. MARSHAL.
" Companion Wm. Boardman,	-	-	-	G. G. SENTINEL.

The General Grand Chapter was opened in due form.

Prayer by the Rev. Robert Punshon.

Committee on credentials appointed.

Adjourned to 4 P. M.

Met, according to adjournment.

The General Grand High Priest announced the death of Most Excellent T. B. Van Vechten, General Grand King.

Resolutions of respect to his memory were adopted.

Adjourned.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1841.

General Grand Chapter met.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following Companions entitled to seats.

Most Excellent Companions James M. Allen, proxy for Most Excellent Companion Joel R. Pointsett, P. D. General Grand High Priest.

From Vermont.

M. E. Nathan B. Haswell, - - - G. H. PRIEST.

From New Hampshire.

M. E. Robert Smith, proxy for - - G. H. PRIEST.

From Masssachnsetts.

M. E. Elijah Atherton, - - - G. H. PRIEST.
 " Charles W. Moore, proxy for - - D. G. H. PRIEST.
 " J. R. Bradford, - - - G. KING.
 " Robert Keith, - - - G. SCRIBE.

From Rhode Island.

M. E. Barney Merry, proxy for - - G. H. PRIEST.
 " Joseph W. Miller, proxy for - - D. G. H. PRIEST.
 " William Field, - - - G. KING.
 " Alvin Jencks, - - - G. SCRIBE.

From Connecticut.

M. E. William H. Ellis, - - - G. H. PRIEST.
 " Horace Goodwin, second - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

From New York.

M. E. Richard Ellis, - - - G. H. PRIEST.
 " Benjamin Enos, - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.
 " Joseph M. Cuyler, - - - G. KING.
 " Ezra S. Barnum, - - - G. SCRIBE.

From Ohio.

M. E. Rev. Robert Punshon, proxy for - G. H. PRIEST.

Standing Committees were appointed.

Comp. Allen, from the committee appointed at the last triennial meeting, to revise and amend the G. G. Constitution, reported at length, and proposed the following amendment :

“ It shall be the duty of the General Grand Treasurer to receive and keep all moneys belonging to the General Grand Chapter, and to pay them out only upon the order thereof, and every officer and member of the General Grand Chapter who shall receive any money for the use thereof, shall immediately pay the same over to the Treasurer, and in case he does not reside at the same place, they shall transmit the same to him within thirty days after receiving it, by due course of commercial exchange.”

This amendment was laid on the table. Adjourned.

AFTERNOON.

A committee was appointed to designate the next place of meeting.

The amendment to the Constitution laid on the table in the morning, was taken up and adopted. Adjourned.

EVENING.

The committee to designate the next place of meeting, reported “ The City of New Haven,” and it was agreed to by the General Grand Chapter.

The General Grand Chapter then adjourned to the next morning, when they met, but without doing any business, adjourned till afternoon.

SEPT. 16, 1841. AFTERNOON.

General Grand Chapter met.

M. E. Comp. Joseph K. Stapleton, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and Deputy General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter, and M. E. Comp. Charles Gilman, General Grand Secretary, appeared and took their seats.

A communication was received from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey, which was referred to the Committee on Warrants.

The Most Excellent Deputy General Grand High Priest, Joseph K. Stapleton, made a report of his doings at length ; from which, it appeared that he had granted Dispensations, as follows :

March 12, 1839. Renewal of a Dispensation to Logan Chapter, at Logansport, Indiana ; a former Dispensation having been granted by Deputy General Grand High Priest Poinsett, but by accident, the proceedings of the Chapter were not laid before the General Grand Chapter at its last meeting.

February 1, 1840, a dispensation to Fayette Chapter, at Fayetteville, Arkansas.

June 17, 1840, a dispensation to Vicksburg Chapter, at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

July 19, 1841, a dispensation to Springfield Chapter, at Springfield, Illinois.

All the fees for which he had paid over to the General Grand Secretary. The report was referred to the Committee on Warrants.

The General Grand Secretary made his financial report in detail, showing the receipt of \$456, which he had paid over to the General Grand Treasurer, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The General Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of officers, and the following Companions were elected:

Most Excellent Rev. Paul Dean, General Grand High Priest ; Most Excellent Joseph K. Stapleton, Deputy General Grand High Priest ; Most Excellent J. W. Crawford, General Grand King ; Most Excellent Ezra S. Barnum, General Grand Scribe ; Most Excellent Charles Gilman, General Grand Secretary ; Most Excellent Edward A. Raymond, General Grand Treasurer ; Most Excellent Robert Punshon, General Grand Chaplain ; Most Excellent Nathan B. Haswell, General Grand Marshal. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, Sept. 17, 1841.

General Grand Chapter met.

The Committee on the State of Masonry made a short report, congratulating the General Grand Chapter on the prosperity of the Institution.

The Most Excellent Deputy General Grand High Priest made a verbal statement relative to the condition of the Royal Arch Chapters in the District of Columbia.

Whereupon the following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That the Most Excellent Joseph K. Stapleton, Deputy General Grand High Priest be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to take the necessary steps to place all Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, in that part of the District of Columbia, which formerly belonged to the State of Maryland, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Maryland ; and at his discretion to heal and legalize, in such mode as he may think proper, any irregularity in the issuing of any Charter held by the said Chapters, or any one of them, or in the proceedings of such Chapters or either of them, upon their submitting to his requirements.

The Committee on Warrants reported a recommendation, that Charters be issued to

Logan Chapter, Logansport, Indiana ; Vicksburg Chapter Vicksburg, Miss. ; Springfield Chapter, Springfield, Ill. ; Far West Chapter, Fayetteville, Ark.

Companion Haswell offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary be directed to prepare and present, on the first day of each triennial session hereafter, a digest of the communications received by him, requiring the action of the General Grand Chapter.

The Committee on the Acts of the General Grand Officers, made a report, which is of a general nature, and, as the Committee on Warrants reported all the necessary action of the General Grand Chapter on those acts, there seems to be nothing in the report that makes it necessary to either copy it, or make a synopsis of it.

The Committee on Finance made a report by which it appeared that the entire sum in the Treasury amounted to \$737 19, out of which they recommended sundry payments to the General Grand Officers.

The following resolution, offered by the General Grand Secretary, was adopted :

Resolved, That Hiram Chapter, at Trenton, be advised to place itself under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York ; and that said Grand Chapter be advised to legalize the proceedings of Hiram Chapter, subsequent to the dissolution of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey.

The General Grand Officers elect were installed.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock, P. M.

4 o'clock, P. M.

The General Grand Chapter met.

A communication was received from Vicksburg Chapter, in relation to a Grand Chapter in the State of Mississippi ; which, on motion, was laid on the table ; and the General Grand Secretary was directed to open a correspondence with the Chapters of that State on the subject.

The General Grand Chapter was then duly closed with solemn prayer by the General Grand Chaplain.

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH
MASONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Triennial Session of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America, was held at the Temple, in the City of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, on the 10th day of September, 1844, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

PRESENT :

The M. E. Paul Dean,	-	-	-	G. G. H. PRIEST.
" " Joseph K. Stapleton,	-	-	-	D. G. G. H. PRIEST.
" " I. W. Crawford,	-	-	-	G. G. KING.
" " Horace Goodwin, 2d., as	-	-	-	G. G. SCRIBE.
" " Charles Gilman,	-	-	-	G. G. SECRETARY.
" " Edward A. Raymond,	-	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.

The M. E. N. B. Haswell,	-	-	-	G. G. MARSHAL.
" " Albert Case, as	-	-	-	G. G. CHAPLAIN.
Comp. Isaac Tuttle,	-	-	-	SENTINEL.

The General Grand Chapter was opened with solemn prayer by the General Grand Chaplain.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest appointed a Committee on Credentials.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following Companions entitled to seats :

M. E. and Rev. Paul Dean,	-	-	-	G. G. H. PRIEST.
" Joseph K. Stapleton,	-	-	-	D. G. G. H. PRIEST.
" I. W. Crawford,	-	-	-	G. G. KING.
" Charles Gilman,	-	-	-	G. G. SECRETARY.
" E. A. Raymond,	-	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.
" Nathan B. Haswell,	-	-	-	G. G. MARSHAL.

Representatives from State Grand Chapters.

From New Hampshire.

M. E. Robert Smith, proxy of	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
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From Massachusetts.

M. E. Ruel Baker, proxy of	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
" John B. Hammatt, proxy of	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
" Charles W. Moore, proxy of	-	-	G. KING.

From Connecticut.

M. E. Horace Goodwin, 2d.,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
" Wm. E. Sanford,	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From South Carolina.

M. E. Rev. Albert Case,	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
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From Ohio.

M. E. Wm. B. Hubbard,	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
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From Maryland.

M. E. C. G. Peters,	-	-	G. KING.
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The General Grand Secretary made the following communication, which being read, was referred to a special committee of three consisting of Companions Moore, of Massachusetts, Goodwin, of Connecticut, and Hubbard, of Ohio; whose duty it was made to report specially as to the disposition of the several matters therein contained.

To the M. E. the General Grand High Priest, and other Officers and Members of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America.

In pursuance of a resolution of the General Grand Chapter, requiring the General Grand Secretary to prepare and present, on the first day of each triennial session, a digest of the communications received by him requiring the action of the General Grand Chapter, the undersigned has the honor to submit the following :

Soon after the close of the last triennial session, the General Grand Secretary received the herewith accompanying papers from San Felipe de Austin Chapter, in Texas, a chapter under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter. Which documents were intended to be submitted for your advice and instruction at that session; but unfortunately the vessel by which they were sent was detained at sea until after the adjournment.

From these papers it appears, that, in consequence of unforeseen events, the companions to whom the charter of that Chapter was granted, found it impracticable to conduct the business of the Chapter at San Felipe de Austin, the place designated in their charter for its location, and assumed the responsibility of opening the same at Galveston, which was done on the 2d of June, 1840. It also appears that said Chapter has received a communication, purporting to come from a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, at the City of Austin, in that Republic, called "Lone Star Chapter, No. 3," proposing a union with another body of Royal Arch Masons, at Matagorda, styling themselves "Cyrus Chapter, No. 1," for the purpose of organizing a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the Republic of Texas. This the Chapter at

Galveston declined ; and wisely refused to hold Masonic intercourse with said so called Chapters at Matagorda and Austin, on the ground that the companions composing these assemblages had no legal Masonic right to hold Chapters of Royal Arch Masons. And in this doubtless they are correct ; for it is not pretended that they have any Charter or Warrant whatever, but are merely individual Royal Arch Masons, who have, by their own unaided act, associated themselves together for this purpose, assuming the right so to do on account of the people of the country being politically separated from all others. How the minds of these respectable gentlemen, having a recollection of their masonic obligations, could come to such a conclusion, it is difficult to conceive. They say that the General Grand Chapter has no jurisdiction over the territory of Texas, and therefore they owe you no allegiance. This is very true ; but if a number of Masons residing in Texas, where there is no Masonic Body to which they could apply for authority to open a Chapter, apply to the General Grand Chapter, as in the case of San Felipe de Austin, can it be doubted, that, according to the Masonic usage of the whole world, you have a right to grant such authority ? Or suppose they should apply to the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, or Virginia, neither of which are under your jurisdiction, have not either of those Grand Chapters a right to grant the authority ? No one can doubt that such an act is in perfect accordance with Masonic usage, and that the Chapters and the members thereof, are thereby placed under the parent body, the same as they would have been had they been located within the same political bounds. Under these circumstances and facts, the officers and members of San Felipe de Austin Chapter, ask, first, that you will approve and ratify their removing their Chapter from San Felipe de Austin, to Galveston ; and secondly, your advice and instruction touching their course towards the said so called Chapters at Matagorda and Austin.

The matter of the Royal and Select Masters Masons degrees still continue to be a subject of anxiety and irritation in the Southern and Western States, and the conferring of them, in some instances,

a matter of private emolument. It will be recollected that this subject was brought before you at the session in 1829; and, as was supposed, definitely settled. It seems, however, that, notwithstanding the undersigned has taken much pains to promulgate the order of the General Grand Chapter in the premises, there are those who are still uninformed as to the present regulation touching those degrees, or are disposed to disregard it. It will be seen by reference to the printed minutes of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Alabama, in 1843, on page 10, that that body have determined that they will not recognize Royal and Select Masters who have received those degrees in Chapters of Royal Arch Masons. The same subject has been brought before the Grand Chapter of Ohio, as will be seen by reference to the printed minutes of that body of 1842, on page 17; and again in 1843, as will be found on pages 5 and 7 of the printed minutes of their proceedings in that year. A Grand Council for the State of Alabama also, formed, as it is believed, long since the regulations above alluded to, has taken action on this subject, and determined that they will not receive such Companions as may have received those degrees in Chapters, as will be found on page 15 of the pamphlet first above mentioned.

From a communication received from Comp. Alexander T. Douglass, under date of March 18th, 1844, it will be seen that a certain Edwin Cruben, a Royal Arch Mason, in violation of the regulation aforesaid, is travelling from place to place, assuming a right to confer these degrees upon individuals when and where it may best suit his pleasure or convenience. Such itinerant impostors are a hindrance to the well being of Masonry, and serve to destroy its usefulness.

By the record of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter in 1819, it appears that the committee to whom was referred the subject matter of dispensations, granted by the General Grand Officers during the previous recess, *had heard* that the then late Deputy General Grand High Priest had granted dispensations for Chapters at Madison, and at Brookville, in Indiana; but there being no fur-

ther evidence of their existence before the General Grand Chapter, no ratification of those acts was passed, nor were their charters ordered, although several charters were at that time ordered for other Chapters, holding dispensations under authority of other General Grand Officers. Consequently, Madison and Brookville Chapters ceased to exist as legally constituted Masonic Bodies at that time. It appears, however, from the herewith accompanying papers, that Madison Chapter continued its labors for many years; and there having been another Chapter established at Vincennes, in that State, in 1823, it is said a Grand Chapter was organized with the approbation of M. E. Comp. John Snow, General Grand King. No documentary evidence of that authority, however, or even records of the proceedings of that Grand Chapter, are known to exist. Nor does it appear of record that the General Grand Chapter was ever advised of the existence of such institution. These facts have been disclosed by the vigilance of our E. Comp. Isaac Bartlett, Secretary of Logan Chapter, upon a proposition to resuscitate said Grand Chapter. On the true positions of these things being made known to the Companions at Madison, in the true spirit of Masonry, they immediately suspended all work, closed their Chapter, and determined to lay their case before you; which they have done in a very frank, perspicuous and able memorial by their High Priest, the M. E. Joseph G. Norwood, herewith presented amongst the documents aforesaid, accompanied by their Dispensation, their return from 1842 to the present time, and the payment of such dues as have accrued within that time.

No return has been made of their doings from the time of their organization in 1819 to 1842. That the irregularities amongst these Companions are the result of mistakes as to the extent of power given by their dispensations there can by no doubt; and those at Madison now pray that their acts may be made lawful by the approval of the General Grand Chapter, that their dues up to 1842 may be remitted, and that a perpetual Charter may be granted them.

There is much reason to believe that these are not the only

Chapters in like circumstances ; whilst there are others that have received Charters by order of the General Grand Chapter, but have never after thought proper to report their doings, nor to pay the constitutional dues. This may arise from a want of knowledge of the provisions of your Constitution, or it may be from carelessness and inattention. It is not known that a register of the Chapters deriving their existence immediately from this General Grand Chapter, has ever been kept ; consequently, no one can obtain an account of them without first searching through the records, and then instituting enquiries whether they are now in existence.

By the papers herewith submitted it will appear that an unhappy state of things has for some time past existed among the fraternity in New Orleans, now or heretofore, members of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana. In February, 1842, the Grand Secretary of that Grand Chapter forwarded to the undersigned an official notice that the Warrant of Chapter Holland, No. 9, (a Chapter subordinate to that jurisdiction,) had been recalled for insubordination and disobedience to the lawful authority of that Grand Chapter ; and that two of its members, to wit : Catton Henry and D. C. Lehman, had been expelled from the Order of Masonry for having taken the most active part in the rebellion. From this decree, so far as respects himself, and of the competency of that body to sit in judgment upon any Masonic matter, the said D. C. Lehman has taken an appeal to the General Grand Chapter, of which due notice seems to have been given to the appellees. The testimony of witnesses has been taken to show that the Grand Chapter of Louisiana is not a legally constituted Masonic Body ; and also that it holds itself independent of, and in no way subordinate to, this General Grand Chapter. The question seems to be one involving the entire existence of a Grand Chapter in the State of Louisiana.

In the month of August, 1843, a Dispensation was granted to a competent number of petitioners, by the Most Excellent Joseph K. Stapleton, Deputy General Grand High Priest, empowering them to open and hold a Chapter at Jackson, in the State of Mississippi ; and Charles R. Przcriminski, was appointed the first

High Priest. By a copy of the record from the proceedings of that Chapter, herewith presented, it appears said Chapter has expelled said Procziminski "from all the rights, benefits, and privileges of Masonry, for a flagrant, moral dereliction in a fraudulent and false assumption of Masonic rights to which he was not entitled."

Although not within the scope of his official duty, under the resolution aforesaid, yet the undersigned would suggest a query whether it be competent for a Chapter to try and expel its own High Priest from the rights and privileges of Masonry, during the period for which he has been appointed?

There are other matters and things among the papers and documents which will be laid before you; but as they will probably be the subject matter of reports from other General Grand Officers, it is not considered necessary here particularly to notice them.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

CHARLES GILMAN,
G. G. Secretary.

Companion Hubbard from the special committee reported the following references of said report:

1. So much of the said report as relates to Royal Arch Masonry, in Texas, to a committee of three.

2. So much thereof as relates to State Grand Councils, and the conferring of the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters, to a select committee of three.

3. So much as relates to the Chapters of Madison and Brookville, in Indiana, and also, to the reputed State Grand Chapter of Indiana, to a select committee of three.

4. So much as relates to the difficulties in New Orleans, as touching the expulsion of Companions Henry and Lehman, and the legal authority of the State Grand Chapter of Louisiana, to a committee of seven.

5. So much as relates to the doings of the subordinate Chapter at Jackson, Mississippi, and the expulsion of their High Priest, to a committee of three.

On motion,

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary be requested during the ensuing recess, to ascertain what subordinate Chapters are legally acting under the authority of this General Grand Chapter ; and that he make and report a register of the same, with such suggestions as he may deem for the benefit of this General Grand Chapter ; and moreover that he be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered, on behalf of this body, to recall the outstanding Charters and Dispensations, which may have been forfeited, to this General Grand Chapter.

Comp. E. A. Raymond offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That all Royal Arch Masons in good and regular standing, have permission, and are invited, to take seats as visitors in the General Grand Chapter, during its present season.

Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The General Grand Chapter met.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following additional members present :

M. E. Ezra S. Barnum, - - - - G. G. SCRIBE.

From Rhode Island.

M. E. William Field, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

From Connecticut.

M. E. Lucius Tyler, - - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

" Benoni A. Shepherd, - - - - G. KING.

From New York.

M. E. Benjamin Enos, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

" Robert R. Boyd, - - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

" Ebenezer Wadsworth, proxy for - G. SCRIBE.

The committees were appointed.

The General Grand Secretary made his Financial Report in detail, from which it appeared that he had received and paid over to the General Grand Treasurer \$1,548 72.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest reported :

That on the 30th day of October, 1841, a petition, signed by the requisite number of R. A. Masons, and properly vouched, praying for a Dispensation for a new Chapter to be located at Holly Springs, in the county of Marshall, and State of Mississippi, was presented to him, and on the same day a Dispensation was granted for that purpose. A Chapter was accordingly organized ; and from the return of its officers, now in the hands of the General Grand Secretary, it will be seen that success and prosperity has attended the efforts of our Companions at that place.

The Most Excellent Deputy General Grand Priest, made the following report :

That since the last triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter, the resolutions of that session, relative to the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in the District of Columbia, has been duly enforced, and conformed by the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland ; and that by virtue of the power therein given by the General Grand Chapter of the United States, Maryland has assumed, and now holds jurisdiction over that portion of the District of Columbia lying within the former limits of the State, and that, at present, Maryland has two Chapters at work therein—and further, that in the discharge of the duties of the Deputy General Grand High Priest, he has granted, since the last meeting of the General Grand Chapter, the following Dispensations, viz. :

1842. Feb. 7. To Comps. Charles H. Albert, and others, at Columbus, Miss.
- | | |
|----------------|--|
| “ Ap. 18. | “ A. Lightbourne, and others, at Liberty, Mo. |
| 1843. Jan. 17. | “ B. V. Teel, and others, at Weston, Mo. |
| “ Mar. 3. | “ John Dade, & others, at Boonsville, Mo. |
| “ May 13. | “ J. W. S. Mitchell, and others, at Fayette, Missouri. |
| “ Aug. 17. | “ E. Deming, & others, at Lafayette, Ind. |
| “ “ 24. | “ Hiram C. Bennett, & others, at Burlington, Iowa. |

1843. Aug. 28. To Comps. William Wing, and others, at City of Jackson, Miss.
- “ Sep. 3. “ of Washington Chapter, No. 1, Newark, N. J., to resume labour.
1844. Feb. 16. “ A. D. Smith, and others, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory.
- “ Mar. 12. “ G. P. Lemmon, and others, at Little Rock, Arkansas.
- “ “ 19. “ J. R. Hartsock, and others, at Iowa City, (No. 2,) Iowa.
- “ May 16. “ Jacob Silver, and others, Village of Niles, St. Joseph Valley, Michigan.
- “ July 2. “ B. Kavanaugh, and others, at Town of Platteville, Wisconsin Territory.
- “ “ 2. “ W. T. Walker, and others, at Chicago, Illinois. .

Thus authorizing fourteen new Chapters to commence work and labour in the respective degrees appertaining to Royal Arch Masonry, and empowering one Chapter to resume labour, at Newark, N. J.

The Most Excellent General Grand King, and the Most Excellent General Grand Scribe, made their respective reports, but as they had performed no definite acts, those reports are omitted.

The General Grand Treasurer presented his account, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The Committee on Warrants made a report, accompanied by the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter approve the action of the Deputy General Grand High Priest, in granting a Dispensation to organize a Chapter at Niles, Berrien County, Michigan, to be known by the name of “ Joseph Valley Chapter, No. 2,” and that a regular Charter be issued to said Chapter. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 11.

The General Grand Chapter was convened in pursuance of adjournment.

Comp. Lucius Tylor, Most Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest of Connecticut, having retired from the General Grand Chapter, delegated Comp. Wm. H. Ellis, as his representative, who appeared and took his seat as a member of the General Grand Chapter.

A committee of five was appointed to confer with a committee of the General Grand Encampment, to designate a place for the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter.

Comp. Boyd, of New York, presented the petition and appeal of George Fisher, late a member of San Felipe de Austin Chapter, * at Galveston, in the Republic of Texas; which on motion, was referred to the committee having in charge the subject matter of Royal Arch Masonry in Texas. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, Sept. 12.

The General Grand Chapter was convened in pursuance of adjournment.

The Committee on the doings of the General Grand Officers made a report, general in its character, and embracing no action of the General Grand Chapter.

The General Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Officers, when the following Companions were elected:

M. E. & Rev. Paul Dean,	G. G. H. Priest.
“ Joseph K. Stapleton,	D. G. G. H. Priest.
“ Ingoldsby W. Crawford,	G. G. King.
“ Ezra S. Barnum,	G. G. Scribe.
“ Charles Gilman,	G. G. Secretary.
“ Ewd. A. Raymond,	G. G. Treasurer.
“ & Rev. Robert Punshon,	G. G. Chaplain.
“ Nathan B. Haswell,	G. G. Marshal.

* Comp. Fisher himself, informs me that he never was a member of San Felipe de Austin Chapter, No. 1, Texas, but resided within its jurisdiction.

B. B. FRENCH.

The General Grand Secretary proposed the following alterations in the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, which were adopted :

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 3. The Officers of the General Grand Chapter shall consist of a General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, General Grand Scribe, General Grand Secretary, General Grand Treasurer, General Grand Chaplain, and General Grand Marshal ; these together with the Past General Grand High Priest, Past Deputy General Grand High Priest, Past General Grand King, Past General Grand Scribe, the first four Officers of every State Grand Chapter under this jurisdiction, or the proxies of the first four General Grand Officers, and of the first four Officers of each State Grand Chapter aforesaid, shall compose the General Grand Chapter. *Provided*, that any Chapter under this jurisdiction, in any State, District, or Territory, where there is no Grand Chapter duly established, shall have a right to appear by its first three Officers or any one or two of them ; which Officers shall collectively have one vote.

Sec. 6. The General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, shall severally have power and authority to grant Dispensations, for a limited length of time, for new Royal Arch Chapters and Lodges of the appendant orders, in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, in which there is not a Grand Chapter regularly established, when, in their opinion, the good of the Craft may require the same ; which term of time shall in no case extend beyond the time of the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter ; but no new Chapter shall be established in any State, Country, Republic or Territory, where there is a Chapter within reasonable distance, under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, without the approbation of the Chapter nearest to the place where said new Chapter is proposed to be located ; and in

all cases of such dispensation, the officer who may grant the same, shall immediately notify the General Grand Secretary thereof, and make report of the same at the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter, when the General Grand Chapter may grant the said Chapter a Charter.

SEC. 7. (After the semi-colon, say) and no credit shall be given for Dispensations or Charters, or for conferring the degrees, in any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction. And every Chapter holden by Dispensation or Charter under this jurisdiction, shall pay into the treasury of the General Grand Chapter, the sum of two dollars for each Companion therein exalted, until such time as a Grand Chapter shall be regularly established in the State, Country, Republic or Territory in which such subordinate Chapter is located.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons throughout this jurisdiction shall have a Dispensation, as is provided in Section 6th, of the first Article, or Section 4th of the second Article of this Constitution, or a Charter from the General Grand Chapter, or from some Grand Chapter under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter; and no Chapter shall be deemed legal without such Dispensation or Charter; and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden, between any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, or any member of either of them, and any Chapter, Lodge, or Assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened, or holden without such Warrant, or any or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge. But nothing in this Section shall be construed to affect any Chapter or Lodge which was established before the adoption of the Grand Royal Arch Constitution, at Hartford, on the 27th day of January, A. D. 1798.

In all cases where the words "*Warrant*" and "*Chapter*," are used in this Constitution, as applicable to the act of a General Grand Officer of the General Grand Chapter, or a Grand Officer

of a State Grand Chapter, the word "*Dispensation*," shall be substituted therefor ; and in all cases where the word "*Warrant*," is used, as applicable to the authority of a Chapter having been duly recognized by the General Grand Chapter, or a State Grand Chapter, the word "*Charter*" shall be used.

The 6th section of the 3d Article to constitute the 4th section in the 4th Article.

Companion Case, from the committee to whom was referred the matter of Royal Arch Masonry in Texas, submitted the following report, which was accepted, and the accompanying resolution adopted :

*To the M. E. General Grand High Priest, Officers and
Members of the General Grand Chapter :*

The committee to whom was referred sundry documents from certain Royal Arch Masons in the Republic of Texas, having given them careful consideration, respectfully report : That the General Grand Secretary be requested to write to the said Companions who have associated themselves under the name and style of "the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Republic of Texas," notifying them that this General Grand Royal Arch Chapter cannot recognize the legality of their present organization, and giving them such fraternal advice and instruction, as may aid them in retracing their steps, and adopting such measures as may be necessary and proper, and as are consistent with correct Masonic practice.

In respect to San Felipe De Austin Chapter, the committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the removal of said Chapter from San Felipe De Austin to Galveston, be approved and sanctioned by this General Grand Chapter.

(Signed,)

ALBERT CASE,
BENJAMIN ENOS,
WM. FIELD.

NEW HAVEN, *June 11th*, 1814.

Companion Case, from the Committee on Warrants, moved for leave to return to the General Grand Chapter, the papers and

documents on the subject of the appeal of George Fisher, which was granted ; and the matter was committed to the Deputy General Grand High Priest and General Grand Secretary, with plenary power to adjudicate and determine the same as to them shall seem right and proper.

The Committee on Warrants made an additional report, which was accepted ; and the matter of Washington Chapter at Newark, N. J., was committed to the special charge of the Deputy General Grand High Priest, with full power to act therein, as to him shall seem proper.

The General Grand Secretary informed the General Grand Chapter, that he had procured to be printed on parchment, 28 blank charters for the use of the General Grand Chapter ; which was approved, and the expense thereof ordered to be paid by the General Grand Treasurer.

Companion Case offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter having learned the history of the organization of a Chapter of R. A. Masons at St. Augustine, E. F., under the authority of the Grand Chapter of S. C., and aware that it was not legally instituted, will grant a charter for the same; and legalize its previous work, on condition that it makes its returns from the time of its organization, delivers a copy of its By-Laws, and pays its constitutional dues.

The Committee on Finance reported in detail, showing a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$2,087 71.

Comp. Boyd, from the committee to whom was referred the matter of the Chapters at Madison and Brookville, in Indiana, and of the so called Grand Chapter of that State, submitted the following report, which was accepted, and the resolutions adopted:

The committee to whom was referred the memorial and other papers from Madison Chapter, No. 1, at Madison, Indiana, beg leave respectfully to report :

They have examined the papers placed in their hands, and find a full and clear statement of facts from Comp. J. G. Norwood, .

getting forth their present position and past doings ; from which it appears, a Dispensation was granted April 1st, 1819—that on the 13th May, 1823, three Chapters, Vincennes, Brookville, and Madison, met at Madison, and formed a Grand Chapter, which seems never afterwards to have assembled—that Madison Chapter, No. 1, continued its labors to 1829, when they suspended their work, for reasons given, until 19th July, 1842, when fourteen Royal Arch Masons assembled, and proceeded to open the Chapter for business ; all of which was illegal.

In 1843, our Most Excellent Deputy General Grand High Priest, Comp. Stapleton, notified them of their irregularity, when they immediately ceased their labors, made a full and clear statement of all the facts, and now come by petition, to this General Grand Chapter for advice ; and your committee would respectfully recommend the following :

Resolved 1st, That the doings of Madison Chapter, No. 1, at Madison, Indiana, were illegal, subsequent to the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter, after the granting of the Dispensation.

2. That there is no legally constituted Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, in the State of Indiana.

3. That this General Grand Chapter now legalize and confirm the doings of Madison Chapter, No. 1, on their healing the Companions so exalted, in said Chapter, or so many of them as may appear in their Chapter for that purpose, and when so healed, they shall be considered in good standing.

4. That any Chapter, subordinate to this General Grand Chapter, in good standing, shall be competent to heal any Companion exalted in Madison Chapter, No. 1, as aforesaid.

5. That a Warrant be granted to Madison Chapter, No. 1, on its complying with the requirements of the General Grand Officers, and they are hereby requested to take the whole subject matter in charge. All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

NEW HAVEN, Sept. 12, 1844.

R. R. BOYD,
WILLIAM FIELD,
CHAS. W. MOORE.

The General Grand Secretary offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the dues of Madison Chapter, No. 1, up to 1842, be remitted, and that a Charter be granted to the Companions thereof, pursuant to the prayer of their petition.

Comp. Moore, from the committee to whom was referred the matter of the appeal of C. D. Lehman, of New Orleans, from a judgment of the so called Grand Chapter of Louisiana, made the following report, which was unanimously adopted :

To the M. E. General Grand Chapter of

Royal Arch Masons of the United States :

The committee to whom was referred sundry papers in relation to certain difficulties, which have arisen between a body styling itself the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, and the officers and members of Holland Chapter, No. 9, in the City of New Orleans, having given the subject careful consideration, respectfully report :

From documents before them, your committee learn that a Grand Chapter of Louisiana, was organized in 1813, by the "Royal Lodges," Concordia and Perseverance, and such officers and members of the Grand Lodge of the State, as were Royal Arch Masons. *

The Grand Chapter, formed in the manner above stated, was attached to, and made dependent on the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, and the M. W. Grand Master of that body was declared to be *ex-officio*, and by "inherent right," Grand High Priest of the new Grand Chapter.

Your committee will not stop to discuss the legality of these proceedings, for the question was foreclosed in 1829, by the admis-

* These Lodges were originally organized in the Island of St. Domingo, under Charters emanating from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, with powers to confer all the degrees from Entered Apprentice to Royal Arch, inclusive. On the breaking out of the revolution in St. Domingo, a portion of the members made their escape to the Island of Cuba, from which they were subsequently obliged to remove to the City of New Orleans; where, having preserved their Charters, they soon after re-opened their Lodges.

sion of a representative from the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, in the person of Comp. McConnell; on whose return to New Orleans, the Grand High Priest, Comp. John Holland, convened the officers and members of the Grand Chapter, who, by an official act, in regular assembly, enrolled themselves under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, in the manner prescribed by the 13th Section of the 4th Article of the General Grand Constitution; of which act, it notified all the subordinate Chapters under its jurisdiction, and directed similar action on their part, and enjoined a strict observance of the provisions of the General Grand Constitution. It is believed, that from this time, 1829, to 1831, the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, were conducted in good faith and allegiance to this General Grand Body. But it is in evidence, that from 1831, to April, 1839, "no meeting of the Grand Chapter was held for any purpose whatever. All the subordinate Chapters under its jurisdiction had ceased to exist except Holland Chapter, No. 9, which continued its organization until its Charter was revoked in 1841, as hereinafter stated.

In the year 1841, the Grand Secretary of the *Grand Lodge of Louisiana*, by direction of the *Grand Master*, issued notices to certain Royal Arch Masons in the City of New Orleans, to assemble and elect Grand Officers, with a view to a reorganization of the *Grand Chapter* of the State. This meeting did not take place. Another, however, was soon after called, of which the High Priest of Holland Chapter, and three of his subordinate officers were notified.

At this meeting, the usual Grand officers were elected, and a body styling itself the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, was organized. It is proper to state, that from the testimony before your committee, it appears that Companion Henry, High Priest of Holland Chapter, was not present at the election which took place as above mentioned, nor can your committee ascertain that there was any Companion present, who was entitled to vote in an election of Grand Officers. A few days subsequently to this, Companion Henry received official notice from Companion Dubayle, as "Grand Sec-

retary of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana," notifying Holland Chapter of the organization of said body, and requiring its returns and dues from 1832 to 1838, inclusive. Against this demand, Holland Chapter protested, and asked for the evidence of the legality of the organization of the body making it. This was refused, and Holland Chapter declined to recognize its authority. On this state of the case, the body assuming to be a Grand Chapter, immediately proceeded to revoke the Charter of Holland Chapter, and to expel its High Priest, Companion Cotton Henry, and its Secretary, Companion C. D. Lehman.

Against this expulsion, Companion Lehman appeals to this General Grand Chapter ; having, on 24th July last, served the reputed Grand Chapter with the usual notice of his intention. And it is in evidence, that on this notice being served on the alleged Grand Chapter, the High Priest of that body, in his place and in open Chapter, declared "*they did not acknowledge any other body, and were independent of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States.*"

Such is a brief statement of the facts in the case, as they are presented to your committee. It appears that the body formed in 1813, as a Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the State of Louisiana, voluntarily surrendered its independent jurisdiction, if any it possessed, and enrolled itself under this General Grand Chapter. This body, so legalized, continued in existence until 1831 ; after which time, it having failed to hold any meeting, or to elect its officers, as required by the 2d section of the 2d article of the General Grand Constitution, it ceased to exist. All its existing subordinates came under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, which alone could legally exercise authority over the territory thus vacated, as provided by the 2d section of the 1st article of the General Grand Constitution.

Your committee are of opinion, that the deceased Grand Chapter could be revived only in the manner prescribed in the 9th section of the 2d article of the General Grand Constitution. No such revival has been authorized or sanctioned ; and this General Grand

Chapter cannot recognize the right of any foreign body to interfere with its jurisdiction, or with the work or business of any Chapter acknowledging its authority.

Your committee therefore recommend that Holland Chapter, No. 9, in the City of New Orleans, be directed to resume its labors, under the direction of its former officers and members, with power to fill existing vacancies : and that it be required to make its annual returns, and settle its dues with the General Grand Secretary.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

(Signed,)

C. W. MOORE,
E. S. BARNUM,
W. B. HUBBARD,
E. A. RAYMOND,
J. B. HAMMATT,
I. W. CRAWFORD,
C. G. PETERS.

The committee appointed to designate a place for the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter, reported the following :

Resolved, That the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, be held at the City of Columbus, in the State of Ohio, on the 2d Tuesday of September, 1847, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Which was adopted.

The General Grand Treasurer offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary be directed to notify all delinquent Chapters under this jurisdiction, that, unless they make return and pay up their dues previous to the next meeting of this General Grand Chapter, their Charters will at that time be revoked.

Companion Hazwell, from the committee to whom was referred the matter of the Royal and Select Masters' Degrees, made a report, which was accepted.

Companion Hammatt, from the committee to whom was submitted the matter of the expulsion of the acting High Priest of Jackson Chapter, at Jackson, Mississippi, made the following report, which was accepted :

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Jackson Royal Arch Chapter, at Jackson, Mississippi, respectfully report, that they have had the subject under consideration, and find their proceedings towards C. R. Przriminski, their late High Priest, to be unprecedented and un-Masonic—the case should have been reported to the General Grand Chapter for their consideration.

The committee, however, are of opinion, that they were led into this error by their zeal for the Institution, and therefore recommend on their making return of the Dispensation, and of a copy of their proceedings, and payment of all dues, that a Charter be granted them in the usual manner.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

J. B. HAMMATT,
H. GOODWIN, 2d.
C. G. PETERS.

FRIDAY MORNING, Sept. 13.

The vote accepting the report of the committee on the subject of the Royal and Select Masters' degrees was re-considered, and after amendment, was adopted, as follows :

To the General Grand Chapter of the United States :

Your committee appointed on so much of the communication of the General Grand Secretary, as relates to State Grand Councils, and the conferring of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters, report :

That it appears from documents referred to your committee, there is not such uniformity in conferring the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in the United States, as would be desired by this Grand Body. Your committee find that in some States the degrees are conferred by Chapters, in other States they are conferred

by authority of Grand Councils—they also find that individual Companions, claiming authority, separate and aside from any regular constituted Masonic Body, are conferring in various directions these important degrees. This latter course your committee believe to be without correct legitimate Masonic authority, and should receive the decided disapprobation of this General Grand Chapter. It is to be lamented that the authority to confer these degrees should be matter of disagreement between the Councils and Chapters. Your committee find that this subject came before this body at their communication at New York, in 1829. A preamble and resolutions were then adopted, which is approved by your committee, and which they recommend for the guidance of the several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, and which they beg leave to incorporate in this report—it is as follows :

WHEREAS, It is satisfactorily proved to this General Grand Chapter, that the Constitution of Councils of Royal and Select Master Masons in different parts of the United States, by sundry persons, has been without any legitimate authority ; and whereas, these degrees are conferred in some Chapters, under the authority of the Grand Chapter ; and whereas, it was proved that it was the only and sole intention of the Most Excellent Companions, from whom those degrees emanated, that they should be conferred under the authority of Royal Arch Chapters, therefore,

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter cordially recommend to the different Councils in the United States, to adopt measures to place the authority of conferring those degrees, under the authority of the State Grand Chapters.

Resolved, That authority be and is hereby granted to the several Grand Chapters under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, to make such arrangements as shall be found necessary for conferring the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters in Royal Arch Chapters under its jurisdiction. *Provided always*, that no Grand Chapter within the limits of which is a Grand Council,

shall authorize the Royal Arch Chapters under its jurisdiction to confer such degrees without the consent of such Grand Councils.

Your committee learn there is some discrepancy in the *order* in which the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters are conferred in some of the Chapters,—in some they are conferred *previous* to that of the Royal Arch Degree,—which your committee consider wrong ; and hereafter, to produce more uniformity in our work, they recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That it is the sense of this General Grand Chapter, that the conferring of the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters, should be *subsequent* to that of the Royal Arch Degree.

It appears by a communication received by the General Grand Secretary, from a worthy Companion in Illinois, that a Companion Royal Arch Mason from Europe, claimed admission, without ever having taken the Degrees of *Mark Master*, *Past Master* and *Most Excellent Master*, as practised in the United States, and sanctioned by this General Grand Chapter,—this Companion stated the manner of conferring the Degrees in Great Britain, to be as follows :

FIRST—Entered Apprentice.

SECOND—Fellow Craft.

THIRD—Master Mason.

FOURTH—Royal Arch Degree.

Making but *four Degrees* in all, and but *three* previous to that of the Royal Arch Degree Your committee being called upon to present their views in the case above referred to, recommend that the different Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, adhere strictly to the uniform manner, so long established, of keeping the several degrees appertaining to the Chapter, separate and distinct ; but they recommend as a proper course, to meet the case stated by our Illinois Companion or any other of a similar nature, that any worthy Companion, from without the jurisdiction of the United States, who may present himself as a Royal Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of his having received that degree, that each and every Chapter under

the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter have liberty, and they are hereby authorized, to confer the Degrees of *Mark Master*, *Past Master* and *Most Excellent Master*, on such Companions to the end that they may be healed, and thereby made regular Royal Arch Masons, free of charge.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

I. W. CRAWFORD,

N. B. HASWELL,

W. B. HUBBARD.

On motion of Comp. Moore, it was

Ordered, That the General Grand Treasurer procure the requisite number of Jewels, Collars, and Aprons, for the use of the General Grand Chapter, at an expense not exceeding two hundred dollars.

The General Grand Officers present then renewed their obligations in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

The General Grand Chapter having finished its business, and the record of the proceedings being read and approved, the same was closed with solemn prayer by the General Grand Chaplain, and an eloquent address from the General Grand High Priest.

THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The triennial session of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America, was held in the State House, in the City of Columbus, and State of Ohio, on Tuesday, the 14th day of September, Anno Domini, 1847, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

PRESENT :

The M. E. Paul Dean,	-	-	-	G. G. H. PRIEST.
" Joseph K. Stapleton,	-	-	-	D. G. G. H. PRIEST.
" I. W. Crawford,	-	-	-	G. G. KING.

The M. E. Ezra S. Barnum,	-	-	G. G. SCRIBE.
" Charles Gilman,	-	-	G. G. SECRETARY.
" Edward A. Raymond,	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.
" Rev. Anson Clarke, as	-	-	G. G. CHAPLAIN.
" Nathan B. Haswell,	-	-	G. G. MARSHAL.
Comp. James T. Donahoo,	-	-	SENTINEL.

The General Grand Chapter was then opened. Prayer by the Most Excellent General Grand Chaplain.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest then appointed a Committee on Credentials. Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The General Grand Chapter met.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following named companions as members of the General Grand Chapter, and entitled to seats therein :

From Maine.

Freeman Bradford,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
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From Massachusetts.

Charles W. Moore,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
R. Baker,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
Jno. B. Hammatt, <i>proxy</i> for the	-	-			G. SCRIBE.

From New Hampshire.

A. B. Young, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
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From Rhode Island.

William Field, *proxy* for the G. H. P., G. K., and G. SCRIBE.

From Connecticut.

Wm. H. Ellis, <i>proxy</i> for the	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
Wm. E. Sanford,	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.

From New York.

Robt. R. Boyd,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
Joel G. Candee, <i>proxy</i> for the	-	-	-	G. KING.	
L. G. Hoffman,	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Maryland.

Walter Ball,	-	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. S. Courtney,	-	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Ohio.

Wm. B. Hubbard,	-	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
G. D. Hine,	-	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
John Sayre,	-	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
Thomas Bell,	-	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Kentucky.

Willis Stewart,	-	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
Philip Swigert, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
Dempsey Carroll, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
A. G. Hodges, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Indiana.

Abel C. Pepper,	-	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
C. Moore, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.

From Tennessee.

Dyer Pearl,	-	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
P. G. S. Perkins,	-	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Mississippi.

Wm. P. Mellen,	-	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
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From Georgia.

Wm. T. Gould,	-	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
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From Alabama.

Sterling A. M. Wood,	-	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
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From Holland Chapter, No. 9, Louisiana.

Thomas H. Lewis,	-	-	-	-	-	H. PRIEST.
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The General Grand Secretary read the following paper, which was referred to a special committee of three, consisting of Com-

panions Moore from Massachusetts, Hubbard from Ohio, and Pepper from Indiana.

To the M. E. General Grand High Priest and other officers and members of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America.

In accordance with the requirements of the General Grand Chapter, the undersigned, General Grand Secretary, submits the following as a digest of such matters as may require your consideration, which have come to his knowledge during the vacation.

Soon after the close of the Session of 1844, I transmitted to the High Priest of Holland Chapter, No. 9, at New Orleans, an authenticated copy of so much of the record of the proceedings of that Session as relates to the difficulties between that Chapter, and the so called Grand Chapter of Louisiana ; and therewith an order to proceed with the regular business of his Chapter in accordance with the decree of the General Grand Chapter. The order was readily complied with ; and since that time the Chapter has regularly made its returns, and promptly paid its dues.

Within the same time, three other Chapters have been opened within that State, by dispensations obtained from the Most Excellent Deputy General Grand High Priest ; all of which have complied with the requirements of the Constitution, and now ask, at your hands, perpetual charters.

It will be recollected that upon the investigation of the matter of the complaint of Holland Chapter, in 1844, it was found that there was no Grand Chapter in Louisiana, constituted according to any laws known to, and acknowledged by the Order, and that therefore the demand for a surrender of the charter of Holland Chapter to the so called Grand Chapter, and the attempt to expel from the rights of Masonry, its officers for disobedience to that demand, was a mere nullity, and not to be regarded by any regularly organized Masonic body.

I have received, through the Post Office, several copies of a pamphlet, purporting to have been issued by this same, so called, Grand Chapter ; by which it appears, in the first place, that they

deny that the General Grand Chapter had any power or authority whatever, to interfere in the matter of Holland Chapter. And in the next place they assert that no decree or order had been passed by the General Grand Chapter in the matter ; but that I had issued the order by an assumption of power never intended to have been given to me !

Now the report of the committee recommended that the act which has been done should be ordered by the General Grand Chapter ; and the report was *unanimously accepted*. The pamphlet, somewhat more subtle than profound, contends that the *adoption of the report* by the General Grand Chapter, was not an adoption of *its provisions* by the members of that body. I was of a different opinion ; nor has that opinion been shaken by the argument in the pamphlet. The exception taken seems to me to savour more of certain technical niceties than of that Masonic spirit that should characterize all our proceedings.

On the 11th day of January last, three Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Florida, by their delegates, met in Convention and resolved to form a Grand Chapter for that State. They therefore proceeded to frame a constitution and enact by-laws ; and on the 21st of the same month they elected officers and organized a Grand Chapter ; and among the proceedings it will be found that they desire to place their Grand Chapter under your jurisdiction. On receipt of the copy of their constitution and the letter accompanying it, I immediately acknowledged the same, and requested their Grand Secretary to inform me from what Grand Chapter the several Chapters in the State received their respective charters, and the time when each was issued. To this letter, as yet, I have received no answer.

From the Freemason's Magazine I sometime since learned that there was a Grand Chapter within and for the State of Georgia. But, after a careful examination of the records, I found there was no evidence therein of such a Grand Chapter having been represented in the General Grand Chapter, nor of the recognition of such a body. Within the last few days, however, on examination

of the old files of papers, I found a printed paper, to which the name of one of the General Grand Secretaries is affixed, giving a list of the Grand Chapters under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, and therein appears the name of the Grand Chapter of Georgia.

It would seem that this is good evidence of that Grand Chapter having been recognized, and that if so, it should be, in some way, made to appear upon the record.

From a communication received from M. E. Charles A. Lacoste, High Priest of Natchez Chapter, it appears that they have lost the charter of their Chapter, and now ask for another.

In the State of North Carolina there is no Grand Chapter. The time was when such an institution existed there as a constituent of the General Grand Chapter; but it is believed that it ceased to exist about twenty years ago. There are said to be Chapters at Halifax, Tarborough, Fayetteville and Wilmington; but they are not in correspondence with the General Grand Chapter, although some of them, if not all, were instituted under its immediate jurisdiction. It is but recently that the foregoing facts in relation to these Chapters have come to my knowledge; since which I have been otherwise too much occupied properly to investigate the matter. *

In the month of November, 1846, I received notice of the formation of a Grand Chapter for the State of Missouri, purporting to be by authority from the General Grand Officers. This, however, was an error; and on being informed by me that there had been no such authority given, it is believed no further proceedings have been had in the matter.

It may be that the Chapters will make a representation of the matter to the General Grand Chapter, setting forth the facts, about

* Since the foregoing was written I have received a printed copy of the minutes of a Convention of delegates from the several Chapters, by which it appears a Grand Chapter has been reorganized for the State of North Carolina. Whether this reorganization be in strict compliance with the Constitution or not, there can be no doubt it was the intention of the Chapters so to do, as the whole proceeding seems to be with a view of regaining their former position in the confederation.

which there is now no misunderstanding ; in which case such proceedings can be had as may seem proper. Otherwise it seems to me that it is not necessary for the General Grand Chapter to take action in the matter, as the Constitution provides for the organization of Grand Chapters without any special action of the General Grand Chapter in session.

By the 4th section of the 1st article of the Constitution it is provided that, "No Royal Arch Mason within the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, shall be permitted to confer any degree in Masonry not recognized as a constitutional degree ; nor to establish any society of Masons not recognized as a constitutional body." It is to be regretted this provision of the Constitution is not generally better known, or if known, that it is so little observed. I have received information that Masons have so far departed from the rules and principles of the Order as to institute new degrees in what they *miscall* Masonry, and to confer them upon persons *as inducements* to them to enter the Masonic fraternity—to confer them, and others, which they call honorary degrees, on women, and to induce them to walk in Masonic processions, clothed in the insignia of the fraternity ! These things are sources of great grief to the orderly and well informed ; and no doubt are a hindrance to the great objects of the Institution.

In consequence of a difference of opinion as to what is the true construction of the second paragraph of article 1st, section 7, of the Constitution, and that there may be uniformity of practice, it has become necessary that the General Grand Chapter express itself in the matter. The constitution provides that the fees for conferring the several degrees therein mentioned, to be charged by the subordinate Chapters, shall not be less than twenty dollars. Among the records of the proceedings of 1826, is found the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, That it may be deemed regular for the subordinate Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, to confer the degrees in said Chapters, on all regularly authorized officiating clergymen, without fees."

The question is, whether the constitution and the resolution are in conflict? If so, then the latter must give place to the former until it be changed. In a large majority of the Grand Chapters, and in many of the subordinate, immediately under the General Grand Chapter, the resolution is allowed to prevail.

Another question growing out of this is, if the Chapters are allowed to confer the degrees upon clergymen without fees, should the General Grand Secretary require of the Chapters the usual fee of \$2 00 to the General Grand Chapter for the exaltation of that class of persons?

By the 7th section of the 1st article of the constitution, it is provided—that, “the fees for instituting a new Royal Arch Chapter with subordinate degrees, shall be ninety dollars, and no more ;” and by the 4th section of the 2d article, it is also provided, that, “the same fees as are required by this constitution shall be first deposited in the hands of the Grand ‘Treasurer,’ before a new Chapter can be established by a State Grand Chapter. It is, nevertheless, a well known fact, that some State Grand Chapters institute new Chapters for a less sum than ninety dollars.

Whether it be more expedient to enforce the provisions of the constitution or to amend it, is a question for the consideration of the General Grand Chapter.

The following are among the great number of questions that have been submitted to me for opinions during the last vacation :

When a difference of opinion shall arise between two Chapters, subordinate to the General Grand Chapter, respecting the territorial limits of the jurisdiction of each, what is the proper tribunal to which application should be made to settle the difficulty?

When a Royal Arch Mason, who is a member of a Chapter, shall be expelled from the rights and privileges of Masonry by a Grand Lodge in the same State, is he thereby expelled as a Royal Arch Mason? If so, and he shall afterwards be restored by the same power, does such restoration, necessarily, reinstate him as a member of the Chapter? or should he be ballotted for as a new applicant for membership?

Since my arrival in Columbus, I have received a petition from sundry companions, Royal Arch Masons, at Peoria, in the State of Illinois, praying for a charter to empower them to open and hold a Chapter at that place, which is duly recommended by Springfield Chapter of the same State. The application seems to be in proper form, and is accompanied by the Constitutional fee.

(Signed,)

CHARLES GILMAN.

The General Grand Treasurer made the following report, which was laid on the table :

The General Grand Treasurer having been charged with instructions to furnish suitable regalia for the officers of the General Grand Chapter, would respectfully report, that he has procured suitable and appropriate jewels, collars and aprons, for all the officers of that body, and that in the discharge of this duty he has endeavored to have a due regard to the condition of the finances, as well as to the character and dignity of the General Grand Chapter.

The amount of money expended for this object is \$162 50. He is prepared with the proper vouchers.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

EDWARD A. RAYMOND.

G. G. Treasurer.

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 14, 1847.

Comp. Ellis, from Connecticut, offered the following resolution which was passed :

Resolved, That all Royal Arch Masons in good and regular standing, have permission, and are invited to take seats as visitors, in this General Grand Chapter, during its present session.

The M. E. General Grand High Priest, M. E. Deputy General Grand High Priest, M. E. General Grand King, and Most Excellent General Grand Scribe, made their respective communications, which were referred to the committee on the doings of the General Grand Officers.

The General Grand High Priest's report contained no account of official action requiring the confirmation of the General Grand Chapter.

The Deputy General Grand High Priest reported, that since the triennial session in 1844, he has authorised several distinguished members of the Order to act as his proxies in the consecration of the Chapters, for which charters had been ordered by the General Grand Chapter, and in the installation of the Officers thereof : viz. :

St. Joseph Valley Chapter, at Niles, Michigan.

Columbus Chapter, at Columbus, Mississippi.

Jackson Chapter, at Jackson, “

Wilson Chapter, at Holly Springs, “

Lafayette Chapter, at Chicago, Illinois.

Iowa Chapter, at Burlington, Iowa.

Iowa City Chapter, at Iowa City, Iowa.

Boonville Chapter, at Boonville, Missouri.

Washington Chapter, at Platteville, Wisconsin.

Union Chapter, at Little Rock, Arkansas.

He had issued Dispensations for the formation of twelve new Chapters, as follows, viz. :

Jacksonville Chapter, No. 3, at Jacksonville, Illinois.

Shawneetown Chapter, No. 6, at Shawneetown, Illinois.

Hannibal Chapter, No. 7, at Hannibal, Missouri.

St. Louis Chapter, No. 8, at St. Louis, “

Southport Chapter, No. 3, at Southport, Wisconsin.

Du Buque Chapter, at Du Buque, Iowa.

Carrollton Chapter, No. 7, at Carrollton, Mississippi.

Yazo Chapter, No. 8, at Yazo county, “

Jackson Chapter, No. 3, at Jackson, Michigan.

New Era Chapter, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Red River Chapter, at Red River, “

East Feliciana Chapter, at E. F., “

and also a Dispensation to the members of Holland Chapter, at New Orleans, to continue work until the present time, they being forcibly deprived of their charter. This Dispensation was issued April 7th, 1845, and it is recommended that a new charter be ordered, according to their petition.

He also reports, that in compliance with a petition from the Chapters in Indiana, on the 18th of November, 1845, he granted permission to said Chapters to form a Grand Chapter for that State; and that on a like petition from the Chapters in Mississippi, on the 12th of March, 1846, he granted permission to those Chapters to form a Grand Chapter for that State; and in both instances he has been officially notified that Grand Chapters have been duly organized.

At the last triennial meeting the matter of Washington Chapter at Newark, New Jersey, was especially committed to his charge, with power to act in the premises as to him might seem proper.

Notice was given to the Companions of Newark that such submission had been made, but the facts not having been laid before him, by those whose interest are most intimately involved, nothing has been done in the premises.

The General Grand Scribe reported that he had granted the following dispensations, viz.: On the 10th of March, 1846, a dispensation to Nelson D. Masse, High Priest, Joel Lee, King, and Caleb Finch, Scribe, and a constitutional number associated with them, to open a Chapter at Henderson, Illinois. On the 1st April, 1846, to Abraham Jones, R. E. Smith, and A. S. Cooley, and their associates, to open a Chapter at Quincy, Illinois. That he had received the constitutional fees for the same, and paid it over to the General Grand Secretary.

The Standing Committees were appointed. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, *September, 15.*

The General Grand Chapter met according to adjournment.

The Committee on Credentials, made the following additional report, which was accepted:

The undersigned Committee on Credentials, ask leave further to report, that the following named companions are in attendance as delegates, and entitled to seats in this General Grand Chapter:

From New Hampshire.

Charles Robbins, *proxy for*

D. G. H. PRIEST.

From New York.

R. R. Boyd, - - - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

From Indiana.

Isaac Bartlett, - - - - - G. SCRIBE.

Companion C. W. Moore, from the Special Committee, on the communication of the General Grand Secretary, made the following report, which was accepted :

The committee to whom was referred the communication of the General Grand Secretary, with instructions to report what disposition should be made of the several subjects therein named, respectfully report :

1st. That so much as relates to Royal Arch Masonry, in Louisiana, be referred to a committee of five.

2d. That so much as relates to the Grand Chapter of Florida be referred to a committee of three.

3d. That so much as relates to the Grand Chapter of Georgia be referred to a committee of three.

4th. That so much as relates to Royal Arch Masonry, in North Carolina, be referred to a committee of three.

5th. That so much as relates to the conferring of degrees not recognized as regular by the 9th section of the 1st article of the Constitution of this General Grand Chapter, be referred to a committee of three.

6th. That so much as relates to the 7th section of the 1st article of the Constitution, and the resolution found in the proceedings of 1826, be referred to a committee of three.

7th. That so much as relates to the organization of the Grand Chapter of Missouri, be referred to a committee of three.

8th. That so much as relates to the petition for a Chapter at Peoria, Illinois, and for a new charter for Natchez Chapter, No. 1, be referred to the Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest then announced the committees on the subjects matter contained in the communication of the General Grand Secretary.

Comp. Swigert, from Kentucky, proposed the following amendment to the Constitution, which was laid upon the table :

Resolved, 'That the 7th section of the 1st article of the Constitution of this General Grand Royal Arch Chapter be so amended as to strike out the word "ninety" in the second line, and insert "fifty."

Comp. Mellen, from Mississippi, offered the following resolution, which was laid upon the table, and on a subsequent day called up and indefinitely postponed :

Resolved, That a Chapter, after its charter has been granted, and before its officers are duly installed, is not entitled to be represented in a State Grand Chapter, nor to the rights and privileges growing out of that representation. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, September 15.

The General Grand Chapter met agreeably to adjournment.

Comp. Candee, from the committee upon so much of the communication, of the General Grand Secretary as relates to the 7th section of the 1st article of the Constitution, made the following report, which was accepted :

*To the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the
United States of America.*

The committee to whom was referred the consideration of section 7th of article 1st of the Constitution, together with a resolution passed at the Convocation in 1826, and is as follows :

"*Resolved*, That it may be deemed regular for the Subordinate Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter to confer the degrees in said Chapters on regularly authorized clergymen without fees," have had the same under consideration, and report,

That in their estimation the resolution conflicts with the Constitution, and is therefore void.

Comp. Sanford, from the committee on so much of the communication of the General Grand Secretary as relates to the con-

ferring of degrees not recognized as constitutional, made a report, which was laid upon the table :

The committee to whom was referred so much of the General Grand Secretary's communication as refers to conferring of the so called honorary degrees, under the sanction of Masonry, have carefully examined such documents as have come into their possession, and have thereby become aware that great irregularities have sprung up, and are very alarmingly increasing, from that practice. They find that in many places Masonic processions are held, in which bodies the wives of Royal Arch Masons, under various titles, are allowed to march, clothed in Masonic aprons and other Masonic badges ; a practice which your committee believe to be destructive to the best interests of Masonry itself, and ultimately injurious to those whom it was intended to benefit ; and would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That henceforth no legally constituted body of Royal Arch Masons shall be authorized to confer on *any one*, any degree other than those recognized or authorized by the General Grand Chapter ; nor shall any individual Royal Arch Mason be authorized or allowed to confer in the capacity of a Royal Arch Mason, any honorary or extraneous degree whatever.

Companion Ellis, from the committee on so much of the communication of the General Grand Secretary as relates to the Grand Chapter of Georgia, made the following report, which was accepted :

The committee to whom was referred that part of the report of the General Grand Secretary, relating to the Grand Chapter of the State of Georgia, respectfully report, that they find documentary evidence in the hands of the General Grand Secretary sufficient to show that the Grand Chapter of the State of Georgia, is a constituent member of this Grand Body—although said Grand Chapter of Georgia has not been represented, or made returns to this General Grand Chapter since the year 1822.

Companion Moore, from the committee on so much of the communication of the General Grand Secretary as relates to the Royal Arch Masons in Louisiana, made the following report, which was accepted, and the preamble and resolutions adopted :

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Royal Arch Masonry in Louisiana, have given to the matter all the consideration its importance demands, and respectfully submit the following

REPORT:

Among the documents placed in the hands of your committee is a pamphlet purporting to be the report of a committee, made on the 15th of March last, to a body in the City of New Orleans, styling itself the Grand Chapter of Louisiana. The authors of this report assume to review and reprobate the proceedings of this General Grand Chapter, had at its triennial session, in 1844, in relation to the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in that State. Your committee cannot consent, nor would it comport with their views of propriety, to engage in a controversy with the authors of this singularly specious and deceptive document. Nor is such a course required either to vindicate the integrity of this General Grand Body, or to protect the interests of Royal Arch Masonry under its jurisdiction.

The authors of the report say, that "it has generally been taken for granted by the Companions here" (New Orleans) "that this Grand Chapter had been declared by the General Grand Chapter to be illegal, and without authority to govern the Chapters of this State." "But your committee" (they continue,) "having, within the last few days, procured a copy of those proceedings," (meaning the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter,) "they have discovered, with pleasure, that the General Grand Chapter had not gone quite so far as was supposed, and that no decree or declaration of that body, that this Grand Chapter had been legally dissolved, or that it was repudiated by that high Masonic authority, ever was made or emanated from the said General Grand Chapter."

Resting on this false position, the committee recommended, and the constituent body adopted, a series of resolutions, claiming—1st, that the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, established in 1813, and admitted in 1829, under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, is still in lawful existence, and "possesses all the powers,

privileges and prerogatives accorded to a regular State Grand Chapter ;” 2d, “that it possesses the sole and exclusive right to constitute new chapters within the State of Louisiana ; and that the interference of any officer of the General Grand Chapter of the United States with the powers and duties of this Grand Chapter, by granting dispensations to open new chapters within the limits of this State, without the sanction of this Grand Chapter, is a gross violation of the provisions of the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution ; and that such dispensations ; or by whatever other name they may be known, can confer no power to open and hold such chapters ;” and 3d, “that Masonic intercourse, as well public as private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden between the Royal Arch Masons of this State and any Masonic body which has been, or may be opened and held contrary to the tenor of these resolutions.”

Such is the position which the body of Royal Arch Masons in the City of New Orleans, without authority styling themselves a regular Grand Chapter, have assumed towards this General Grand Chapter.

Your committee have not leisure to discuss the questions here raised ; nor are they convinced that any practical good would be likely to result from such a course. They, therefore, respectfully recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions :

Whereas, at its triennial communication in 1844, this General Grand Chapter, after a patient and careful examination of all the facts in the premises, did unanimously declare, that the body formerly known as the Grand Chapter of Louisiana had become extinct ; and that authority over the territory thus vacated could be legally exercised only by this General Grand Body. *And whereas*, the irregular association of individuals then, as now, styling themselves the “Sovereign Grand Royal Arch Chapter” of Louisiana, in defiance of the authority of this General Grand Chapter, continue to hold their sessions and keep up their organization, and for purposes of deception assume not to understand the action of this General Grand Body, had at its triennial communication aforesaid,

as impeaching their legality as a Grand Royal Arch Chapter ; but insist on the regularity of their organization, and contemptuously denounce the doings of the responsible officers of this Grand Body as arbitrary, and " without warrant or authority : " Therefore, that there may not hereafter be any room for misunderstanding in the case, it is hereby unanimously

Resolved, That there is not at this time any constitutional and legally authorized Grand Royal Arch Chapter in the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That the association holding its meetings in the City of New Orleans, and assuming to exercise the functions and authority of a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, is an irregular and unauthorized Masonic body ; and it is hereby disowned and repudiated as spurious, clandestine, and illegal.

Resolved, " That Masonic intercourse, as well public as private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden " between Royal Arch Masons and the Grand and Subordinate Chapters owing allegiance to, and in correspondence with, this General Grand Chapter and the aforesaid spurious association, its adjuncts, and all Royal Arch Masons acknowledging the authority of the same.

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary be instructed to forward an attested copy of the preceding preamble and resolutions to Mr. F. Verrier, the acting Secretary of the aforesaid illegal association of Masons at New Orleans.

Comp. Moore, from the same committee, also made the following report, which was accepted :

Report on Holland Chapter.

The committee on so much of the communication of the General Grand Secretary as relates to Holland Chapter, in the City of New Orleans, find, from the documents in their possession, that the charter of said Chapter has been either lost or stolen ; and that the dispensation, under which it has been working for the past year, expires, by the terms of its own limitation, with the present session of this General Grand Chapter. They, therefore, respect-

flly recommend, that the General Grand Secretary be authorized to execute a new charter, to take the place of that which has been lost, and that he make no other charge for the same than the usual fee of office.

Comp. Boyd, from the committee on so much of the General Grand Secretary's communication as has reference to a Grand Chapter in Missouri, made the following report, which was accepted, and the recommendation adopted :

The committee to whom was referred the action of the Grand Chapter of Missouri, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report : That the Grand Chapter of Missouri was formed, as we think, by the chapters thereof, in good faith, believing that they were fully authorized to do so from conversations and correspondence with Comp. General Grand Secretary. Your committee, however, believe that this organization was not strictly in conformity with the Constitution of this General Grand Chapter—Therefore,

Resolved, That all irregularities be removed, and that said Grand Chapter of Missouri be fully recognized, and that its representatives be invited to seats in this General Grand Chapter.

The Committee on Credentials made additional report, that Comp. R. Keyworth, Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, is in attendance, and entitled to a seat in this General Grand Chapter.

The General Grand Treasurer presented his account of receipts and disbursements, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The report was made in detail, and showed a balance in the treasury of \$3,907 54.

The General Grand Secretary made the following report :

To the General Grand Chapter of

Royal Arch Masons for the United States :

The undersigned General Grand Secretary reports : That on the 14th of October, 1844, in pursuance of the requirements of the

General Grand Chapter, he forwarded, through the New Orleans post office, to the body of Masons styling themselves the Grand Chapter of Texas, the original of which the accompanying paper, marked 1, is a copy; and at the same time a notice to San Felipe de Austin Chapter, that the General Grand Chapter had sanctioned the act of their removal from the town of San Felipe de Austin to Galveston. Receiving no answer to the former, and doubting whether it had ever reached its intended destination, on the 12th of February, 1846, he addressed a note to the High Priest of San Felipe de Austin Chapter, accompanied by a note to the so called Grand Chapter, and a duplicate of the said communication; and subsequently he received a letter from Companion Samuel H. Williams, (to whom the parcel was addressed,) stating that he had placed the communication in the hands of the proper persons. To this communication he has received no reply.

He also reports, that he has spent no little time in attempting to perform the duty assigned him, as found in a resolution touching delinquent chapters. His course was to examine the records from the time of the first organization of the General Grand Chapter up to the close of the session of 1841, and to make a register of all the charters that had been entered upon the records. He, however, from divers other sources, learned that others, some twenty-five to thirty years before, had been known to exist. These also he registered. He then issued circulars of inquiry, and obtained such information as he was able as to the existence of such bodies. He then issued a circular to such chapters as were found to be in existence, communicating the requirement of the General Grand Chapter. And although he cannot flatter himself that he has accomplished the full amount of the wishes of the General Grand Chapter, his account current, herewith presented, will show that, so far as the collection of arrearages of dues is concerned, his labors have not been entirely fruitless.

He also reports, that he has prepared a register of all the Chapters known by him to be in existence in States and Territories

where there are no acknowledged Grand Chapters. He would respectfully suggest, that further effort be made to accomplish the object of the resolution, and that no charter be declared forfeit at this session.

He also reports, that, directly after the close of the last triennial session, he caused to be printed 300 copies of the records of the proceedings, and 500 copies of the revised Constitution—the former of which he has distributed among the fraternity, and of the latter, he has sent one or more copies to each of the Chapters and Grand Chapters under this jurisdiction, and also to all the General Grand Officers and members who were in attendance at the last meeting, as also to all other Royal Arch Masons who have asked for them.

Respectfully submitted,

(*Signed,*) CHARLES GILMAN.

The report having been read, so much as relates to Royal Arch Masons in Texas, was referred to a special committee of three; and the account current was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Companion Boyd, from the committee on so much of the communication of the General Grand Secretary as relates to Royal Arch Masonry in North Carolina, made the following report, which was accepted, and the recommendation adopted :

The committee to whom was referred the present re-organization of the Grand Chapter of the State of North Carolina, beg leave respectfully to report: That they have had the same under consideration, and find their proceedings to be regular. They assembled, as appears by their printed proceedings, on the 28th June, 1847; three Chapters were represented; they proceeded to elect officers and adopt a constitution; in which, however, your committee would remark there appears to be several unconstitutional articles or sections, and we would respectfully recommend, that the Grand Chapter of North Carolina be recognized as a legal Grand Chapter, on their altering and amending their constitution

to conform to that of this General Grand Chapter in the following particulars noted by your committee :

Art. 4. Mark Lodge.

Art. 5. Fee \$50, shall be \$90.

Art. 10. The ballot must be unanimous.

Art. 12. Should be stricken out.

Art. 14. Should be amended.

The Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters, respectfully report : That they have examined the By-Laws of Jackson Chapter, No. 3, held at Jackson, in the State of Michigan ; Jacksonville Chapter, No. 3, at Jacksonville ; Horeb Chapter, No. 4, at Henderson ; Quincy Chapter, No. 5, at Quincy ; and Shawneetown Chapter, No. 6, at Shawneetown, in the State of Illinois ; New Era Chapter, at New Orleans ; East Feliceana Chapter, in the parish of East Feliceana ; Red River Chapter, at Shreveport, in the State of Louisiana, and, with the exceptions noticed in the subjoined resolutions, found them correct ; and they recommend that charters be issued to the aforesaid chapters. In accordance with the desire of East Feliceana Chapter, your committee recommend that the name of said Chapter be changed to that of " Clinton," to be held at the town of Clinton, in said parish.

Natchez Chapter, No. 1, Mississippi, has asked for a duplicate charter—the original having been lost for several years. The present General Grand Officers not being the same who held office at the time said charter was granted, your committee advise that the General Grand Secretary furnish said Chapter with a new charter.

There are several Chapters which have been working under dispensations that have as yet made no returns—they will form the subjects of another report.

The committee recommend the adoption of the subjoined resolutions :

1. *Resolved*, That the General Grand Secretary instruct East Feliceana Chapter to strike out of the By-Laws of said Chapter, article 6, section 11, the same being a violation of the ancient landmarks of the Order, and article 1, section 14, as surplusage ;

and that he instruct Red River Chapter to strike out of their By-Laws article 12, section 2, for the reason last above mentioned.

2. *Resolved*, That charters be issued, forthwith, upon the payment of the constitutional dues and fees to the chapters above mentioned, and that the name of East Feliceana Chapter be changed to that of Clinton, agreeably to their request.

3. *Resolved*, That a certified copy of the original charter of Natchez Chapter, No. 1, be furnished to said Chapter upon payment of the General Grand Secretary's fee ; and in case that cannot be done, that he be, and is hereby authorized to issue a new one by its original number.

In obedience to the instruction of the General Grand Chapter, they offer the following resolution :

4. *Resolved*, That the General Grand Secretary issue a charter to Carrollton Chapter, at Carrollton, Mississippi.

Which report was accepted, and the resolutions adopted, except that in relation to Carrollton Chapter, which, on motion of Companion Mellen, was laid on the table.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the General Grand Chapter will proceed to the election of officers for the next three years, to-morrow at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Companion Perkins, from Tennessee, offered the following resolution, which was laid upon the table, and afterwards called up and rejected :

Resolved, That the charge given to the High Priest of a Chapter, at his installation, in the following words, "That you will never suffer either more or less than three brethren to be exalted in your chapter at one and the same time," shall be literally construed.

FRIDAY, 17th September.

The General Grand Chapter met pursuant to adjournment.

The Committee on Credentials further report, that Companion Hines is entitled to a seat in this body as Grand High Priest of the

Grand Chapter, and also Companion William Hubbard, as proxy for Companion Thomas Bell, Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter of Ohio.

The General Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of officers, and the following named Companions were duly elected to the offices affixed to their respective names :

Robert P. Dunlap,	G. G. H. Priest.
Joseph K. Stapleton,	D. G. G. H. Priest.
Willis Stewart,	G. G. King.
Ezra S. Barnum,	G. G. Scribe.
Charles Gilman,	G. G. Secretary.
Edward A. Raymond,	G. G. Treasurer.
Rev. Anson Clark,	G. G. Chaplain.
Nathaniel B. Haswell,	G. G. Marshal.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The General Grand Chapter met agreeably to adjournment.

The Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters made a further report, as follows, which was adopted :

The committee would further report, that they have had under consideration a petition in the usual form, duly recommended, for a chapter to be located at Peoria, Illinois, and would recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

Your committee have also examined the By-Laws, returns, &c., of Southport Chapter, No. 3, at Southport, Wisconsin ; Du Buque Chapter, No. 3, at Du Buque ; and Iowa City Chapter, at Iowa City, Iowa, and find them correct ; and recommend that charters be granted to the same.

Companion Wood, from the committee on so much of the communication of the General Grand Secretary as relates to the Grand Chapter of Florida, made the following report, which was accepted, and the resolutions adopted .

Your committee appointed on so much of the communication of the General Grand Secretary as relates to the formation of a Grand Chapter in Florida, report : That it appears, from docu-

ments referred to your committee, a convention of delegates from the Royal Arch Chapters in the State of Florida, assembled in Tallahassee, in the month of January, 1847, at which time the following preamble and resolution were adopted, to wit :

Whereas at a Convention of Royal Arch Masons, held in Tallahassee on the 11th day of January, 1847, A. T. 2847, there were present at said Convention the requisite number of chapters represented to form and organize a Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the State of Florida—Therefore, be it

Resolved, That a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Florida be organized, and that the chairman appoint a committee for the purpose of forming a constitution for the government of said Grand Chapter.

In the published proceedings of said Grand Chapter we find the adopted constitution, and also the following resolutions :

“Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Florida, duly appreciating the advantages of a Masonic head and paramount authority, are disposed to come under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

“Resolved, That the Grand Secretary communicate the same to the General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter.”

It will be seen, from the facts above set forth, that our Companions in Florida evince that regard for our General Grand Constitution which should entitle them to respectful and solicitous attention. It is to be regretted that the Grand Secretary of that Grand Chapter did not furnish that precise information of the origin of the several chapters which composed the convention as would have enabled your committee to report in such a manner as to recommend to this General Grand Chapter the incorporation of that Grand Chapter under your jurisdiction at the present time. It is not known to your committee from what source the chapters in that State derived their charters ; nor can they, from any thing which is in their possession, decide whether they were legally constituted or not. We presume they were ; but believe, that it would not be in accordance with the general spirit of action of this Gen-

eral Grand Chapter to incorporate the Grand Chapter of Florida under its jurisdiction until some further steps are taken in regard to these facts.

Your committee would further report, that the 7th section of the 1st article of the constitution of that Grand Chapter, which reads as follows, to wit : " for every dispensation granted for the formation of a chapter, there shall be paid to the Grand Secretary five dollars for his fees ; and for every charter, there shall be paid to the Grand Secretary, for the use of the Grand Chapter, the sum of fifty dollars, and the further sum of five dollars as a fee to the Grand Secretary ; and no dispensation or charter shall be issued until the foregoing fees are paid," is at variance with the 7th section of the 1st article and the 4th section of the 2d article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter. And further, in the 7th section of the 4th article of the constitution of the said Grand Chapter of Florida, ministers of the Gospel are excepted from the payment of twenty dollars fees for the Royal Arch degrees, which is also at variance with the 7th section of the 1st article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter.

Believing that the Grand Chapter of Florida will amend their constitution in these particulars, and for the purpose of facilitating its incorporation with this General Grand Chapter, and at the same time doing no violence to its Constitution, they beg leave to offer the following preamble and resolutions, to wit :

Whereas information has been given to this General Grand Chapter of the formation of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter in the State of Florida, which said Grand Chapter has signified, through its Grand Secretary, a desire to come under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States : and whereas this General Grand Chapter is not informed of the legality of the charters under which the Chapters were constituted which formed that Grand Chapter—Therefore, be it

Resolved, 1st, That the Grand Chapter of Florida be, and is hereby requested to furnish to the General Grand Council, through the General Grand Secretary, or directly to each member of it, all

the facts within their knowledge connected with the establishment of Royal Arch Chapters in the State of Florida, especially with regard to the authority from which each of said subordinate Chapters derived its charter.

Resolved, 2dly, That should the General Grand Council be satisfied from an examination of such facts as the Grand Chapter of Florida may communicate to them, that the Royal Arch Chapters in that State have been legally constituted, and should the said Grand Chapter amend its constitution so as to conform to the constitution of the General Grand Chapter, then, and in that case, the General Grand Council shall immediately take such steps as will permit the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Florida to be incorporated under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Resolved, 3dly, That the General Grand Secretary be required to send to the Grand Secretary and each one of the first four Grand Officers of that Grand Chapter, a copy of the proceedings of this triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter.

Companion Mitchel, from Missouri, offered the following resolution, and moved its adoption :

Resolved, That the chapters working by dispensation under this jurisdiction in Missouri be, and they are, required to pay dues to this General Grand Chapter up to the period when a Grand Chapter was organized in the said State of Missouri, viz. : October, 1846.

Companion Stapleton moved an amendment of the resolution requiring the chapters in Missouri to pay dues to the General Grand Chapter up to the time of the recognition of the Grand Chapter in that State. Which proposed amendment was rejected. The resolution was then adopted.

On motion, the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest appointed the following named companions a committee to notify the Most Excellent Robert P. Dunlap, of his election to the office of General Grand High Priest, and to request him to accept the same :

Companion Raymond, from Massachusetts ; Companion Bar-num, from New York ; Companion Bradford, from Maine.

Whereupon, on motion, it was

Resolved, That the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest be added to the committee, as the chairman thereof ; who was also requested to take the necessary steps for his installation.

The General Grand Secretary laid before the General Grand Chapter the applications of Natchez and Vicksburg Chapters for a return of dues paid ; which were laid upon the table.

Companion Pearl, from Tennessee, offered the following amendment to the Constitution, which was rejected :

Strike out the 9th section of the 1st article, and substitute the following in its stead :

No Royal Arch Mason, within the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, shall be permitted to confer any degree, *as a Masonic degree*, other than those recognized by the General Grand Chapter as constitutional degrees, to wit : Entered Apprentice, Fellow-Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, Royal Arch Mason, and Royal and Select Master ; nor to establish, or unite with, any society, *as a Masonic Society or Body*, not recognized as a constitutional Masonic body. .

Companion Candee, from the Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters, made the following additional report, which was accepted :

The Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters would further report : That they recommend that charters be issued to Hannibal Chapter, No. 7, at Hannibal, and St. Louis Chapter, No. 8, at St. Louis, Missouri.

Companion Mellen, from the committee on so much of the General Grand Secretary's Report as relates to Royal Arch Masonry in Texas, made the following report, which was accepted, and the resolutions adopted :

The committee to whom were referred the report and correspondence of the General Grand Secretary, relating to Royal Arch Masonry in the State of Texas, have considered the subject, and

are of the opinion that this General Grand Chapter cannot recognize the organization of the so called Grand Chapter of Texas as legal, nor the Royal Arch Masons admitted under the authority of that body, as regularly exalted. The constituent Chapters of said Grand Chapter were formed by a convocation of individual Royal Arch Masons, and though residents of a State politically and masonically foreign, it is not conceived by the committee, that Royal Arch Masons have a right to form Chapters without a dispensation, or charter, issued from a Grand Chapter duly organized, or one of its officers, if out of the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, or from this body or one of its officers. San Felipe de Austin Chapter having received its charter from this body, is the only Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Texas known to this body as having a legal existence.

The view which this General Grand Chapter has heretofore taken of Royal Arch Masonry in Texas, which corresponded with the above, has been very clearly and ably presented by the General Grand Secretary, to the body claiming the right to exercise supreme power over Royal Arch Masonry in that State; but no notice, though a long time has elapsed, has been taken of his communication. • The committee has no alternative to present for the further action of the General Grand Chapter. There is but the one course to pursue—the offending member must be cut off for the sake of the other members and body, painful as the operation may be.

The committee, therefore, submit the following resolutions for adoption :

Resolved, That Royal Arch Masons under this jurisdiction are hereby forbidden to hold masonic intercourse with the said so called Grand Chapter of Texas, its subordinates, and those acknowledging the authority of said Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary cause a copy of the foregoing resolution to be published in some newspaper in the State of Texas.

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary transmit a copy of the first resolution to the so called Grand Chapter of Texas, and inform that body, that it is with great regret that this General Grand Chapter finds itself compelled to adopt this course, and that entertaining none but the most fraternal feelings towards their Companions of Texas, would hail with sincere pleasure an acknowledgment of their error, and the retracing of those steps which must inevitably lead to much discord, and do inconceivable injury to that cause for which they, as well as ourselves, profess the warmest friendship.

Comp. Field, from Rhode Island, offered the following preamble and resolution, and moved their adoption :

Whereas there appears to be a fund of about \$3021 in the hands of General Grand Treasurer, after defraying the expense of this Triennial Session : and whereas several State Grand Chapters here represented, are unable from their own funds to pay their representatives,—Therefore,

Resolved, That the several Grand Chapters here represented, whose representatives are not officers in the General Grand Chapter, be paid \$50 each, from the funds of the General Grand Chapter, to assist in paying such representatives.

To which Companion Mitchel, from Missouri, offered the following amendment :

Strike out all after the word “resolved,” and insert, “That two thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated to the several Grand and Subordinate Chapters, *pro rata*, according to their respective numbers of members, to be held by them as a charity fund.”

After discussion, the question being taken upon the proposed amendment, it was rejected ; when, on motion, the original resolution was indefinitely postponed.

The resolution in relation to the granting of a charter to Carrollton Chapter was called up, and adopted.

The committee appointed to designate a place for the next triennial meeting, reported the following resolution :

Resolved, That the next Triennial Meeting of this General Grand Chapter, be held in the City of Boston, on the second Tuesday of September, 1850.

Companion Mitchel, from Missouri, moved that the word "Boston" be stricken out, and "St. Louis" inserted ; which was rejected.

The report of the committee was then adopted.

Those of the General Grand Officers elect, who were present, viz. : the Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, General Grand Scribe, General Grand Secretary, General Grand Treasurer, and General Grand Marshal, were then duly installed into their respective offices by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest.

The Past General Grand High Priest having retired, the Deputy General Grand High Priest took the chair—Whereupon,

Companion Moore, from Massachusetts, offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

Whereas the Most Excellent Companion, Rev. Paul Dean, has been pleased to decline a re-election to the office of General Grand High Priest of this General Grand Chapter, which office he has filled for nine years past, with honor to himself and profit to the fraternity, and this General Grand Chapter cannot allow him to retire without an expression of the feelings of every member relative to the very high regard we entertain for him as a worthy and Most Excellent Companion, and as a long tried and faithful presiding officer—Therefore,

Resolved, That the thanks of this General Grand Chapter be, and hereby are, unanimously tendered to the Rev. Paul Dean, the late Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, for the very courteous and able manner in which he has presided over this General Grand Body for nine years past, and the high satisfaction he has given in the discharge of all his official duties.

Resolved, That on retiring from the chair of General Grand High Priest, the Rev. and Most Excellent Paul Dean bears with

him the best wishes of the members of this General Grand Chapter, and their ardent prayers for his future usefulness and welfare.

Companion Lewis, from Louisiana, offered the following additional resolution, which was adopted :

Be it further and unanimously Resolved, That, as a slight testimonial of the regard we entertain for the distinguished Past General Grand High Priest, the Rev. and Most Excellent Paul Dean, a committee of three be appointed to procure a gold jewel, properly engraved, (at a cost not exceeding \$50,) and present the same to him, in the name of this General Grand Chapter.

Companions Lewis, from Louisiana, Raymond, from Massachusetts, and Ellis, from Connecticut, were appointed a committee to carry into effect the last resolution.

Comp. Gould, from Georgia, offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of this Body be tendered to the Most Excellent Ingoldsby W. Crawford, Past General Grand King, who has with ability and fidelity served in this General Grand Chapter for fifteen years past, but has now declined a reelection ; and that he carries with him the best wishes of the members, for his health, usefulness, and happiness.

Comp. Ellis, from Connecticut, offered the following resolutions, which were adopted :

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this General Grand Chapter, are due to the Masonic Fraternity of the State of Ohio, and of the adjoining States, for the warm and kind reception extended to its officers and members in their collective and individual capacity.

Resolved, That the sum of twenty-five dollars be appropriated, and placed in the hands of Companion Wm. B. Hubbard, to pay any expenses that may have been incurred for the use of the room occupied, or for other contingencies incurred by this General Grand Chapter.

SATURDAY, 1st September.

The General Grand Chapter met agreeably to adjournment.

The record of the proceedings of the last meeting was read and approved.

Companion Mellen, from Mississippi, called up the application of Natchez Chapter, for a return of dues paid by them—Whereupon, it was

Ordered, That Natchez Chapter have leave to draw on the General Grand Treasurer for the sum of two hundred dollars.

Companion Hammatt, from Massachusetts, offered the following amendment to the Constitution : After the words “ Past General Grand Scribe,” on first line, 4th page, add, “ Past Grand High Priests of State Grand Chapters ;” which was ordered to be filed, and to lay over until the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter.

Companion Hubbard, from the Committee on Finance, made a report, which was accepted, showing a balance in the Treasury, of \$3,021 15.

Comp. Haswell, from Vermont, presented the following petition, which, being read, the application was granted :

To the General Grand Chapter of the United States :

I am requested, as the last elected High Priest, to ask permission for Burlington Chapter, No. 12, in Vermont, to resume its labors under the old charter, they making proper returns to this General Grand Chapter of their doings.

NATHAN B. HASWELL.

Comp. Perkins, from Tennessee, called up the matter of the application of Vicksburg Chapter for a return of dues paid by them, and offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the sum of one hundred dollars be remitted to Vicksburg Chapter, at Vicksburg, in part of the amount of dues, which had been placed in the hands of a Companion, now deceased, to be paid to the General Grand Chapter, but was lost in consequence of the death of said Companion.

The report of the General Grand Treasurer, in the matter of the jewels and clothing, was called up, and his acts approved—Whereupon,

Comp. Moore, from Massachusetts, offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this General Grand Chapter be presented to the General Grand Treasurer, for the very acceptable and tasteful manner in which he has discharged his duties, as a committee for procuring a new set of regalia for this General Grand Chapter.

The General Grand Chapter was then closed with prayer by Rev. Comp. James T. Donahoo.

CHARLES GILMAN,
G. G. Secretary.

FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF
ROYAL ARCH MASONS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The triennial session of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States, was held at the Masonic Temple, in the City of Boston, and State of Massachusetts, on Tuesday, the 10th day of September, A. D., 1850, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest stated that, if agreeable to the members, he was prepared to open the General Grand Chapter in ample form.

Whereupon, on motion of Companion Gould, of Georgia, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the General Grand Chapter be opened in ample form.

The General Grand Chapter was then organized for the purpose of opening, as follows :

The M. E. Robert P. Dunlap,	-	-	G. G. H. PRIEST.
“ Joseph K. Stapleton,	-	-	D. G. G. H. PRIEST.
“ Willis Stewart,	-	-	G. G. KING.

The M. E. Ezra S. Barnum,	-	-	G. G. SCRIBE.
“ Charles W. Moore,	-	-	G. G. SEC. <i>p. t.</i>
“ Edward A. Raymond,	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.
“ Rev. Paul Dean, as	-	-	G. G. CHAPLAIN.
“ N. B. Haswell,	-	-	G. G. MARSHAL.
“ John C. Humphries, as	-	-	G. G. C. H.
“ Wm. Field, as	-	-	G. G. R. A. C.
“ Charles B. Rogers, as	-	-	G. G. P. S.
“ Stephen Lovell, as	-	-	M. 3D V.
“ Wm. R. Davis, as	-	-	M. 2D V.
“ George P. Keettell, as	-	-	M. 1ST V.
E. Comp. Hugh H. Tuttle, as	-	-	TYLER.

The General Grand Chapter was then opened in ample form, and the usual proclamation was made.

A Committee on Credentials was appointed.

The following triennial report of the General Grand Secretary was presented and referred to a committee consisting of M. E. Wm. T. Gould, of Georgia ; M. E. Wm. Field, of Rhode Island ; M. E. Thos. H. Lewis, of Louisiana.

To the M. E. General Grand High Priest, and other officers and members of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America :

The great distance between the place of my present residence and Boston, I hope will be deemed a sufficient apology for my absence from the session of the General Grand Chapter in September next.

Previous to my leaving Baltimore, I deposited the book of records, the seal, my letter book, the files of letters received, and all other papers and matters of importance, belonging to the General Grand Chapter, in a trunk, and left it in charge of the Most Excellent Joseph K. Stapleton, the Deputy General Grand High Priest. I also obtained the promise of Comp. Benjamin B. French, of Washington, D. C., to take charge of the trunk and contents, and, at the proper time, to repair to Boston and

represent me in the General Grand Chapter, until my place shall otherwise be filled.*

All money received by me since the rendition of my account in 1847, has been expended or paid over to the General Grand Treasurer, as will appear by my account herewith presented, and the vouchers among the papers above mentioned. Which account I pray may be examined, and recorded and published among the minutes of the proceedings, as heretofore, that those interested may see that I have accounted for all I had received.†

From the fact that, since the early part of April, 1849, I have been entirely withdrawn from all correspondence with the Grand and Subordinate Chapters under your jurisdiction, and so far separated from the field of their operations as to know little of what has occurred since that time, I am unable to lay before you any important matter growing out of my own knowledge of passing events, as heretofore I have done under the requirements of your regulations.

In relation to my own official acts, I have to report, that, soon after the adjournment of the session of 1847, I transmitted to Mr. F. Verrier, of New Orleans, an attested copy of the preamble and resolutions on pages 26 and 27 of the pamphlet copy of the minutes of the proceedings of that session ; but received no reply thereto.

Also, at the earliest possible day, I complied with the requirements of the resolution found at the top of page 43 of the same pamphlet relating to the Grand Chapter of Florida. And I regret

* The promise alluded to was understood by me to be contingent on receiving a letter from Companion Gilman. The letter was written, as I have since learned, but I never received it. Hence my failure to comply. B. B. F.

† The General Grand Secretary has not been able to find the account mentioned, among the papers.

[Companion Gilman forwarded to the General Grand Secretary a copy of his account from San Francisco, and it was printed in a slip and sent out with the proceedings. Several years afterwards, the original was found by Companion Stapleton among his papers.]

I am under the necessity of saying, that the whole spirit and intention of the action of the General Grand Chapter in the premises, seems to have been misconceived by the Grand Chapter of Florida. On receipt of a printed copy of the minutes of the proceedings of that body, I attempted to set the matter before them in its true light ; but with what success I am not advised. I respectfully refer you to the pamphlet containing the minutes of the proceedings of that body in 1848, and to the copy of my letter in reply, both of which will be found among the papers and documents as above mentioned.

I also carried out the requirements of the resolutions on page 46 of the pamphlet copy of your proceedings aforesaid, in the matter of Royal Arch Masonry in Texas ; and have the satisfaction to add, that the whole difficulty there had been amicably arranged and reconciled before I left Baltimore. It is probable that a more full account of this arrangement will be laid before you by another of the General Grand Officers.

All other particular requirements of the General Grand Chapter, mentioned among the minutes of the proceedings of the last session as devolving upon me, have been attended to. Charters were issued ; Grand and Subordinate Chapters were notified of all especial requirements ; and the appointed number of copies of the minutes of the proceedings were published and circulated. The records are fully written up ; and all important letters received by me, and the copies of my own in reply, will be found on file, and in the letter book aforesaid. It may be important to submit those letters and copies to a committee for investigation, as it is now impossible for me to recall to any considerable extent their contents. I have forwarded notices of the time when and place where the triennial session is to be held this year, to be published in the Free Mason's Magazine, the Masonic Review, and the Port Folio. The usual notices to the General Grand Officers and to Grand Chapters, and to Subordinate Chapters under the immediate jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, I could not give. I am not without apprehension that some inconvenience may have re-

sulted from my absence from my usual post, especially in the matter of the annual returns and the collections of dues. To obviate these difficulties as much as possible, I notified the Subordinate Chapters to make returns and pay dues direct to the General Grand Treasurer ; and left with a friend in Baltimore instructions to open all letters from the Baltimore Post Office, directed to me, and, upon inspection, to deliver to Companion Stapleton all such as should be of a Masonic character.

Though not a part of my official duty, it may not be uninteresting to you to be informed of the progress of the Order on this side of the Continent. In August last, the first meeting of members of the fraternity in California was held to deliberate upon the means whereby a Lodge of Freemasons might be organized and accommodated. A charter was found in charge of a brother ; but no suitable room could, at that time, be obtained. Subsequently, however, one was prepared and fitted up ; and San Francisco Lodge, the first in California, was duly opened. Since then other Lodges have been opened under Charters and Dispensations from the States ; and in April last a Grand Lodge for the State of California was established, and Lodges under its jurisdiction are being organized and established in every town and village throughout the State. And the last mail brought a Dispensation from the Deputy General Grand High Priest, authorising the opening and holding a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons under your jurisdiction. To say that Freemasonry has done—is doing—and may hereafter be expected to accomplish more towards the great objects of its institution in California than it has elsewhere done in a given period of time for centuries past, is claiming for it no more than its due. The hope of becoming suddenly rich in this world's wealth is uppermost in the minds of all men who come to this country. Hence the avenues to the finer sensibilities of his heart are closed up ; and he forgets his humanity, and deserts his sick and dying friend and companion. Then it is that the principles of our institution have been called into action ; and I am happy and proud in being able to say, that the sick, and the destitute, and the dying,

have been nursed, and protected, and comforted by members of the fraternity. And this reflection is an ample compensation for years of labor in an institution I have so much loved.

The consciousness that at a time when you shall be assembling in September, and while you are receiving the cordial greetings one of another, I, for the first time on such an occasion for eighteen years, must be absent—far from you—that the whole breadth of the Continent lies out-spread between us—that some of you, perhaps all, with whom I have been so long associated, I must never again meet on earth—is a most painful idea. I pray you then think it not obtrusive, if I avail myself, as I now do, of this my last official communication to your body, to express my ardent wishes for the success and prosperity of the cause in which you are engaged, and to bid you a cordial farewell.

CHARLES GILMAN,

SAN FRANCISCO, *July 1, 1850.*

G. G. Secretary.

Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The General Grand Chapter met according to adjournment.

Comp. French, from the Committee on Credentials, submitted the following report, which was accepted :

The Committee on Credentials, having examined all the returns which have come to their hands, report that the following Companions are members of the General Grand Chapter, and duly entitled to seats therein :

From Maine.

John C. Humphries,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
John Williams,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
Timothy Chase,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
A. B. Thompson,	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Massachusetts.

Benj. Huntoon,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
Charles W. Moore, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. KING.

From New Hampshire.

Daniel Balch,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
Ebenezer Simms, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Rhode Island.

William Field, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
N. H. Gould,	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Connecticut.

Cyrus Goodell, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
Horace Goodwin 2d, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. G. Storer, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. KING.

From New York.

Orville Hungerford,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
John L. Lewis, Jr.,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.

From Maryland.

B. B. French,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
E. S. Courtney,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.

From Ohio.

Jacob Graff,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
Kent Jarvis, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
Thos. Bell, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. K. & G. SCRIBE.

From Vermont.

Philip C. Tucker,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
Daniel S. Butler,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
D. C. Stone,	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Indiana.

Abel C. Pepper,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
James Brown, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.

From Tennessee.

Charles H. Fuller,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
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From Mississippi.

T. C. Tupper, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

From Georgia.

William Tracy Gould, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

Jason Burr, *proxy* for - - - - G. SCRIBE.

From Kentucky.

D. S. Goodloe, *proxy* for - - - - G. H. P. & G. S.

From Alabama.

William Hendrix, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

From Missouri.

A. Patterson, *proxy* for - - - - G. H. P. & D. G. H. P.

From Illinois.

N. Coffin, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

James V. Z. Blaney, - - - - G. KING.

From North Carolina.

L. L. Stevenson, *proxy* for - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

From Louisiana.

Thomas H. Lewis, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

From San Felipe de Austin Chapter, No. 1, Texas.

A. C. Crawford, - - - - DELEGATE.

Charles Daniel, - - - - DELEGATE.

From San Augustine Chapter, No. 9, Texas.

Otis M. Wheeler, - - - - DELEGATE.

From the State of Michigan, Companion E. Smith Lee, the Grand High Priest, is present, but no credentials or vouchers are in the hands of the committee, and they cannot therefore return him as officially entitled to a seat, though they do not doubt that he is.

On motion of Companion Dean, the amendment of the Constitution, proposed at the last triennial communication, and ordered to lay over to the present meeting, constituting "Past Grand High Priests of State Grand Chapters," members of this General Grand Chapter, was taken from the files and adopted, by a vote of 23 in the affirmative to two in the negative.*

On motion of Comp. Stevenson,

Resolved, That Comp. E. Smith Lee, of Michigan, be permitted to take a seat as a member of this General Grand Chapter.

The committees were appointed.

M. E. Comp. Goodwin, of Connecticut, offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of forming a General Grand Council for the Royal and Select Masters Degrees in the United States.

M. E. Comp. Gould, of Georgia, offered the following resolution, which was read and adopted :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to report to this body on the question, whether an appeal lies from the decision of the presiding officer, on a question of order, in any Royal Arch Masonic body?

Companions Hubbard, Bradford and French, were appointed the committee.

The following resolution, submitted by M. E. Comp. Tupper, of Mississippi, was received and adopted :

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the 7th section, article 1st, of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, as fixes the amount to be charged by Grand Chapters for issuing Charters to Subordinate Chapters and the amount to be charged by Subordinate Chapter for degrees conferred by them ; and, also, so much of Section 9, article 1st, as prohibits the conferring of what are called "honorary" or "side degrees" by Royal Arch

* This was afterwards reconsidered and modified. See post.

Masons, under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, and report their conclusions to the General Grand Chapter.

Companions Tupper, of Mississippi, Thompson, of Maine, and Lewis, Jr., of New York, were appointed the committee.

Most Excellent Companion Blaney, of Illinois, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to inquire into, and report to this General Grand Chapter, at its present session, upon the expediency of the establishment of a *Representative Fund* for the payment of the necessary expenses of delegates to this General Grand Chapter.

On motion of Companion Lewis, Jr., of New York, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare Rules and Orders for the government of this General Grand Chapter.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest announced Companions Lewis, Jr., of New York, Goodwin, of Connecticut, and Raymond, of Massachusetts, as the above committee.

WEDNESDAY, *September 11, 1850.*

The General Grand Chapter met agreeably to adjournment.

The special committees ordered yesterday were appointed.

Most Excellent Companion Gould, of Georgia, submitted the following report on the communication of the General Grand Secretary, which was read, and together with the resolutions there-to appended, adopted :

The committee to whom was referred the communication of the General Grand Secretary, beg leave to

REPORT :

That they have carefully examined that document, and cannot refrain from expressing their regret that it is probably the last of the kind which we shall receive from that able and faithful officer. At the same time it is matter of congratulation that his services are not lost to the fraternity, though transferred to a new field of ac-

tion ; and your committee would express the hope, that the success which he reports our Order to have met with, in gaining a firm foothold in the western wilds of our continent, may be but the dawning of a bright day of usefulness and prosperity.

With regard to the various matters of business referred to by the General Grand Secretary, your committee cannot make full reports, without interfering with the duties of others. The Standing Committees of this Body, to whom much of the business connected with these subjects will be referred, can alone give them full and deliberate consideration.

The receipts of money and everything relating to accounts and returns, come within the duty of the Committee on Finance. And the Committee on the Actings of the Grand Officers must necessarily consider the report on the subject of Louisiana, Texas, and Florida.

With regard to Louisiana, where difficulties have so long existed, your committee are happy to state, on the personal knowledge of one of their own members who represents that State in this Body, that those difficulties are now all adjusted, and that the different Grand Bodies of that State, in all the degrees of Masonry, are now united as one, in that harmony, without which our Order cannot exist.

In Texas we are informed that a similar result has been brought about, in a great measure through the efforts of a distinguished brother, whose report on that subject, will doubtless furnish the particulars, and, if his modesty does not prevent his doing justice to himself, will show how much our Fraternity is indebted to the prudence, energy, and zeal of his timely and successful efforts.

Your committee regret that a like favorable report cannot be made as to the State of Florida. But here, too, we cannot discuss fully the subject referred to, because it falls more properly under the consideration of another committee.

Your committee consider it not within their province to add any thing further to this report, beyond recommending the adoption of the following resolutions :

1. *Resolved*, That the accounts of the General Grand Secretary, together with the returns from Subordinate Chapters, be referred to the Committee on Finance.

2. *Resolved*, That so much of said Secretary's communication as relates to the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in Florida, be referred to the Committee on the Actings of the General Grand Officers.

3. *Resolved*, That the consideration of the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in Texas, be postponed until the General Grand King presents his report.

4. *Resolved*, That while the happy adjustment of all disputes in Louisiana renders any further action by this Body on that subject unnecessary, we cannot refrain from expressing our high satisfaction at a result so auspicious to the Fraternity.

M. E. Comp. Lewis, of Louisiana, offered the following as an amendment to the Constitution, which was read, and ordered to be placed on file for future action :

Amendment of Section 1 of Article 2 of the General Grand Constitution, proposed by Comp. Thomas H. Lewis, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana.

Strike out of this Section after the word "preside" at the end of the sixth line, the following words : "and of the Past Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings, and Scribes of the said Grand Chapters."

Comp. Lewis, of Louisiana, also offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the memorial of Comp. John Gedge, of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, found on page 13, and seq. of the printed proceedings of the last Annual Communication of said Grand Chapter, be referred to a select committee of five members of this Body.

M. E. Comps. Hubbard, of Ohio, Ellis, of Connecticut, Fuller, of Tennessee, Tucker, of Vermont, and Williams, of Illinois, were appointed the committee.

The M. E. General Grand High Priest, after some appropriate remarks on the importance of the subject, proposed that the matter of Work and Lectures, as practised under the sanction of this General Grand Chapter, should be referred to a committee of this Body, to consider and report. Whereupon,

M. E. Comp. Lee, of Michigan, offered the following resolution, which, after discussion, was adopted, viz :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire as to the policy of establishing a uniform mode of Work and Lectures for the several Chapters of the United States.

M. E. G. G. High Priest appointed the committee as follows : M. E. Comps. Lee, of Michigan, Huntoon, of Massachusetts, Graff, of Ohio, Lewis, Jr., of New York, Coffin, of Illinois, Dean, of Massachusetts, Lewis, of Louisiana, Humphreys, of Maine, Fuller, of Tennessee, Brown, of Indiana.

On motion of Excellent Companion Barnum, the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, was added to the committee. Excellent Companion Lovell, of Massachusetts, was subsequently added as chairman.

Most Excellent Companion French, from the Committee on Credentials, reported the names of Companions William H. Ellis, and Horace Goodwin, of Connecticut, John J. Prentiss, of New Hampshire, and Stephen Lovell and Henry Earl, of Massachusetts, as entitled to seats in the General Grand Chapter.

Most Excellent Companion Hubbard, of Ohio, from the Committee on the subject of Appeals, submitted a report, which, after debate, was referred back to the committee, with instructions to report in the form of resolutions.

During the pendency of the above report, on motion of Most Excellent Companion Tucker, of Vermont, it was

Ordered, That when the question is taken, it be taken by yeas and nays.

Most Excellent Companion Lewis, Jr., of New York, from the Committee on Rules and Orders, submitted a report on that subject, which on motion of Companion Tupper, was laid on the table.

Sundry petitions and returns were presented and referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters.

The Most Excellent Deputy General Grand High Priest reported that since the Triennial Session, 1849, he has issued Dispensations for the formation of the following new Chapters :

Union Chapter, at Newark, N. J., on the 13th March, 1848.

Newark Chapter, at Newark, N. J., on 20th March, 1848.

Washington Chapter, Texas, on 5th May, 1848.

Whitfield Chapter, Arkansas, on 27th May, 1848.

Howard Chapter, Illinois, on 28th July, 1848.

Stapleton Chapter, Illinois, on 28th June, 1849.

* El Dorado Chapter, California, on 9th May, 1850.

Also, a Dispensation to sundry companions of Vermont, to reorganize a Grand Chapter at Burlington, under the last Grand High Priest, Most Excellent N. B. Haswell.

Which was referred to the Committee on the Doings of the Grand Officers.

The Most Excellent General Grand King reported, that since the last triennial communication of this Most Excellent General Grand Royal Arch Chapter in 1847, that upon proper application and recommendation, he granted a dispensation dated the 10th day of March, 1849, for a chapter of Royal Arch Masons, to be held at the town of Anderson, in the County of Grimes, in the State of Texas, to be known as Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3.

Also, a Dispensation, dated the 14th day of March, 1849, for a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, to be held at the town of Crockett, in the County of Houston, in the State of Texas, to be known as Trinity Chapter, No. 4.

Also, a Dispensation, dated the 14th day of April, 1849, for a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, to be held at the Town of Brenham, in the County of Washington, in the State of Texas, to be known as Brenham Chapter, No. 5.

* This is an error, it should be " San Francisco Chapter."

Also, a Dispensation, dated the 14th day of April, 1849, for a Royal Arch Chapter, to be held at the Town of Austin, in the County of Travis, in the State of Texas, to be known as Austin Chapter, No. 6.

Also, a Dispensation, dated the 22d day of January, 1850, for a Royal Arch Chapter, to be held at the Town of Huntsville, in the County of Walker, in the State of Texas, to be known as San Jacinto Chapter, No. 7.

Also, a Dispensation, dated the day of 1850, for a Royal Arch Chapter, to be held at the Town of Washington, in the County of Washington, in the State of Texas, to be known as Washington Chapter, No. 8.*

Also, a Dispensation, dated the 2d day of February, 1850, for a Royal Arch Chapter, to be held at the town of San Augustine, in the county of San Augustine, and State of Texas, to be known as Rising Star Chapter, No. 9.

Also, a Dispensation, dated the 2d day of March, 1850, for a Royal Arch Chapter, to be held in the town of Cambridge, in the county of Henry, in the State of Illinois, to be known as Reynolds Chapter, No. —.

And that in each case he appointed Past High Priests to install the officers, organize the Chapters, and set them to work in accordance with the Constitution, rules and regulations of this Most Excellent General Grand Chapter.

He would further report that Comp. Past High Priest, James R. Hartsock, of New Orleans, acted as his proxy in the installation of the officers of Red River Chapter No. 3, on the 15th day of March, and of Clinton Chapter, No. 4, at Clinton, in the State of Louisiana, on the 28th day of March, 1848; and that Comp. Past High Priest Guerdon Gates acted as his proxy in the installation of the officers of Shawneetown Chapter, in the State of Illinois. He granted authority to Houston Chapter No. 2, and Austin Chapter No. 6, in the State of Texas, to confer the degrees

* Name changed to Brazos Chapter.

pertaining to the Chapter on a number of worthy Master Masons, without their petitions having laid over the usual time, the peculiar circumstances of each case seeming to him to justify such a course.

He, also, authorized Holland Chapter No. 1, New Era Chapter, No. 2, Red River Chapter, No. 3, Clinton Chapter, No. 4, in the State of Louisiana, to organize and establish a Grand Chapter for that State, which they did in the city of New Orleans, on the 1st day of May, 1848. He also granted authority to the seven Chapters in the State of Illinois, working under Charters, to organize and establish a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for that State. Six of the number were represented and participated in the organization on the —— day of April, 1850.

It is with peculiar pleasure that reference is made to the amicable adjustment of all differences with our Companions of Texas. For the sake of peace and harmony, they have, in a spirit worthy of all commendation, dissolved their independent organization, and there is now no less than nine Chapters working under authority from this Most Excellent General Grand Chapter. The undersigned, from personal observation, bears testimony to the zeal, fidelity and ability with which they discharge their Masonic duties. Perhaps there is no State in the Union where the benign influences of our much loved institution have been more extensively felt, and the genuine principles of the Order more faithfully carried out in practice.

The undersigned most respectfully suggests the propriety of refunding the fees received for all dispensations for Chapters, at places where Chapters existed under authority from the late Grand Chapter of Texas.

In the West and Southwest generally, Masonry has never known a brighter or more auspicious day than the present. Every where prosperous, there seems to be no contention, except that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree. And thus may it remain, circumscribing our desires, keeping our passions within due bounds, correcting our morals, expanding our hearts with true benevolence towards all mankind,

until that glorious day when the lion and the lamb shall lie down in peace together, and there shall be no longer any necessity for its continuance.

The undersigned presents the annexed statement of moneys received and paid over by him, and asks its reference to the Committee on Accounts.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WILLIS STEWART,
G. G. K. G. G. O.

Referred to the Committee on the doings of the General Grand Officers, and Finance.

The Most Excellent General Grand Scribe made a report, which was read, and is as follows :

The undersigned respectfully reports, that since the last triennial meeting of this General Grand Chapter, he has, on proper application, granted permission to organize a Grand Chapter in the State of Michigan, January, A. D., 1848.

In February, A. D., 1848, granted Dispensation to revive Jerusalem Chapter, No. 2, in the State of Vermont, without charge.

August 1st, A. D., 1849, granted a Dispensation to James W. Gilman and others, to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at Rock Island, in the State of Illinois, for which I received \$90, and have paid the same over to the General Grand Treasurer.

All papers relating to the above accompany this report, except such as have been sent to the General Grand Secretary before he left Baltimore.

E. S. BARNUM,
G. G. Scribe.

A communication relative to Brazos Chapter, Texas, from Companion Wm. T. Austin, of Texas, was received and laid on the table.

Most Excellent Companion Tupper, of Mississippi, moved for a reconsideration of the vote by which the General Grand Constitution was so amended as to make " Past Grand High Priests of State Grand Chapters," members of this General Grand Body; which after discussion, was carried.

The original proposition was then, on motion of Companion Lewis, of Louisiana, amended by adding the following words, viz. : “ *Provided*, That said Past Grand High Priests shall have no vote, but only a consulting voice in this Body.”

The proposition as amended, was then adopted.

On motion of Most Excellent Companion Stewart, of Kentucky, it was

Resolved, That a Committee on Grievances be appointed.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest appointed the following companions on this committee, viz. :

Companion Hendrix, of Alabama ; Companion Lewis, of Louisiana ; Companion Storer, of Connecticut ; Companion Bradford, of Maine ; Companion Balch, of New Hampshire.

A communication from Lafayette Chapter, at East Berkshire, Vermont, was received and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Most Excellent Companion Hendrix, of Alabama, offered the following resolution, which was adopted, viz. :

Resolved, That the General Grand Chapter proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing three years, to-morrow at 9 o'clock in the morning.

Most Excellent Companion Hungerford, of New York, offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a Representative Fund, be instructed to report permanent salaries and mileage to such General Grand officers as shall be entitled to the same.

Most Excellent Companion Storer, of Connecticut, offered the following resolution, which was adopted, viz. :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to designate the place of meeting for the next triennial communication of the General Grand Chapter.

Most Excellent Companion Tupper, of Mississippi, submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee of Finance, viz. :

Resolved, That the sum of ninety dollars, the sum which was paid for a Dispensation by Carrollton Chapter, in the State of Mississippi, be refunded and paid to the Grand Chapter of the State of Mississippi.

M. E. Comp. Graff submitted the following inquiry, which was received and referred to Comps. Goodell, of Connecticut, Tucker, of Vermont, Butler, of Vermont.

Is it competent for a Royal Arch Chapter to confer the Chapter degrees on a Master Mason who has but one arm ?

M. E. Comp. Barnum, of New York, presented an appeal and accompanying documents from Comp. O. Alexander, which were referred to the Committee on Grievances.

An appeal from Comp. P. S. Van Houten and others, was also presented and referred to the same committee.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the exemplification of the work of the General Grand Chapter, be had to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 11—P. M.

The General Grand Chapter met agreeably to adjournment.

Comp. James Hutchinson was recognized as proxy for Comp. N. H. Gould, Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island.

M. E. Comp. Stevenson, of North Carolina, was added to the Committee on Amendment of the Constitution.

A petition signed by Comp. George Fisher, of Houston, Texas, was received and referred to the Committee on Grievances.

M. E. Comp. Stewart, of Kentucky, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the General Grand Secretary be instructed to have the Constitution of this General Grand Chapter printed with the proceedings of the present Session, and distribute the same to each State Grand Chapter owing allegiance hereto, and to each of their Subordinates so far as he can ascertain the same.

On motion of M. E. Comp. Gould, of Georgia, the vote designating 9 o'clock to-morrow morning, as the hour for the election of officers, was re-considered.

The original motion was then amended, by striking out the words "to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock," and inserting the word forthwith : and was adopted.

The Most Excellent General Grand Chapter then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, for the election of officers. Most Excellent Companion Lewis, of Louisiana, in the Chair.

Companions Courtney, of Maryland, and Lewis, Jr., of New York, were appointed tellers.

The committee on motion of Comp. Gould, rose, reported progress, and had leave to sit again. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, *Sept.* 12, 1850.

The General Grand Chapter met agreeably to adjournment.

Most Excellent Companion Lewis, of Louisiana, submitted the following report from the Committee on Dispensations, which was adopted :

The Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters, respectfully report, that they have examined the work, returns, &c., of Newark Royal Arch Chapter, No. 2, held at Newark, in the State of New Jersey ; of Brenham Chapter, No. 5, held at the Town of Brenham, in the State of Texas ; of Austin Chapter, No. 6, held at Austin, in the State of Texas ; and of Union Chapter, No. 1, in the City of Newark, in the State of New Jersey, and find said work of said Chapters correct ; and your committee recommend that Charters be granted to the said Chapters.

Austin Chapter, No. 6, has petitioned to have its name changed to that of " Lone Star Chapter, No. 6," to which there can be no reasonable objection.

Your committee submit for adoption the following resolution :

Resolved, That Charters be issued forthwith to the above named Chapters, on payment of the constitutional dues and

fees ; and that the name of Austin Chapter be changed to that of Lone Star.

Companion Lewis, of Louisiana, also submitted the report of the Committee on Grievances, which was laid on the table :

To the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the United States :

The Committee on Grievances respectfully report, that they have had under consideration the appeal taken by Philip S. Van Houten and others from the action of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of the State of New York ; and after as mature investigation as the time allowed them would permit, a majority of them have arrived at the conclusion that there is no error contained in the resolutions of said Grand Chapter, from which this appeal has been taken, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the appeal brought up from the action of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York by Philip S. Van Houten and others, be, and the same is hereby dismissed.

By order of the committee,

THOS. H. LEWIS, *Chairman*.

Most Excellent Companions Brown and Humphries having left the city, the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest appointed as their substitutes on the Committee on Work, Most Excellent Companions Stevenson, of North Carolina, and Field, of Rhode Island.

Most Excellent Companion Hungerford, of New York, submitted the following report from the Committee on Finance, which was adopted :

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the application of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi for the payment to said Chapter of ninety dollars, being the amount paid to the General Grand Chapter by Carrollton Chapter in said State, for a Dispensation or Charter, report—

That it appears by the proceedings of Mississippi Grand Chapter, that an officer of this General Grand Chapter, in the year 1846, granted a Dispensation to Carrollton Chapter, to continue until the triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter in 1847, when a Charter was granted ; that subsequently to the granting said Dispensation, and prior to the meeting of the General Grand Chapter, a Grand Chapter was formed in said State, and they now claim that the fees for a Dispensation should be paid to said Grand Chapter.

The committee do not discover any thing in this case essentially varying from ordinary cases of granting Dispensations in States where no Grand Chapter has been formed, and therefore ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the same.

O. HUNGERFORD, *Chairman.*

M. E. Comp. French, of the Committee on Credentials, reported the names of M. E. Comp. Whittaker, Grand High Priest, and M. E. Comp. C. B. Manchester, Grand King, of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, as entitled to seats in this body.

Returns and petition from Brazos Chapter, Washington, Texas, and a petition from Reynolds Chapter, Cambridge, Illinois, were presented and referred to the Committee on Dispensations.

M. E. Comp. Hendrix, of Alabama, of the Committee on Grievances, submitted the following report, which was received and laid upon the table :

To the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the United States :

Your Committee on Grievances would further report, that a document in the form of a petition, signed O. Alexander, Washington, D. C., was referred to them, in which the petitioner states that he has been unjustly expelled from the rights of Royal Arch Masonry by Milwaukee Chapter, No. 1, in the State of Wisconsin. Your committee are of opinion that the General Grand Chapter cannot act upon a case of this kind, unless it comes in the form of an appeal, in which case all the proceedings had in

the Subordinate Chapter should be sent up. Your committee would therefore respectfully ask leave to be discharged from the further consideration of this matter.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. HENDRIX,
THOS. H. LEWIS,
E. G. STORER,
DANIEL BALCH,
F. BRADFORD.

The same committee also submitted the following report, which was read, and the resolution appended thereto adopted :

To the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the United States :

Your Committee on Grievances, to whom was referred an appeal taken by George Fisher, from the action of San Felipe de Austin Chapter, No. 1, at Galveston, in the State of Texas, would respectfully report, that they have had the same under consideration, and after an examination of the proceedings of said Chapter in the case before alluded to, and such other evidence as was furnished us, would respectfully offer the following resolution, and ask its adoption by the General Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That George Fisher be and is hereby restored to all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. HENDRIX,
THOS. H. LEWIS,
E. G. STORER,
DANIEL BALCH,
F. BRADFORD.

M. E. Comp. Hungerford, of New York, of the Committee on Finance, submitted an adverse report from that committee on the petition of Lafayette Chapter, in Vermont, which, after discussion, was recommitted to the same committee, with instructions to report in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners.

M. E. Comp. French, of the District of Columbia, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :

Whereas, it has been doubted by many of the members of this General Grand Chapter, whether the proceedings of yesterday, in reconsidering the vote fixing the time for the election of officers, and proceeding to that election in advance of the time fixed in full Chapter yesterday morning, were regular—Therefore,

Resolved, That those proceedings be and hereby are approved, and the officers yesterday elected, be considered duly and legally elected to the several places they occupy : *Provided*, That this proceeding shall never hereafter be construed as a precedent for a like proceeding.

Most Excellent Companion Hubbard, of Ohio, from the Committee on Appeals, submitted the following report, which was laid on the table :

The committee to whom was referred the question, whether in any Royal Arch Masonic Body, a member of such body had a right to an appeal from the decision of the presiding officer on a question of order, have had the same under consideration, and herewith report : That, in their opinion, and according to the usages of Masonry from time immemorial, no appeal can of right be had, and accompany their report with the following resolution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. B. HUBBARD,
FREEMAN BRADFORD,
B. B. FRENCH.

Resolved, That according to the usages of Masonry from time immemorial, on a question of order, no appeal can of right be taken from the decision of the presiding officer, in any Royal Arch Chapter, to the body over which he presides.

The General Grand Chapter then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the choice of officers.

Most Excellent Companion Lewis, of Louisiana, in the Chair.
Companion Barnum declined being a candidate for re-election.

The committee having completed the business before them, rose, and reported that they had made choice of the following officers for the General Grand Chapter for the ensuing three years, viz. :

M. E. Robert P. Dunlap,	-	-	-	G. G. H. PRIEST.
" Jos. K. Stapleton,	-	-	-	D. G. G. H. PRIEST.
" Willis Stewart,	-	-	-	G. G. KING.
" Thos. H. Lewis,	-	-	-	G. G. SCRIBE.
" Benj. B. French,	-	-	-	G. G. SECRETARY.
" Edw'd A. Raymond,	-	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.
" Rev. Paul Dean,	-	-	-	G. G. CHAPLAIN.
" N. B. Haswell,	-	-	-	G. G. MARSHAL.

On motion, the report was accepted, and the said companions declared duly elected to the several offices designated.

Most Excellent Companion Tupper, of Mississippi, offered the following resolution, which was laid on the table :

Resolved, That the committee appointed to designate the place for holding the next Triennial Meeting of the General Grand Chapter, be and they are hereby instructed to inquire and report as to the propriety and expediency of abolishing this General Grand Chapter, and of recommending the adoption of the same course by all other General Grand Bodies in the United States, with the view of establishing in their place a General Convocation of Masonic Delegates, representing all State Grand Bodies, to meet annually or triennially, at some central location, for the purpose of exercising a general legislative jurisdiction over all Masonic Bodies in the United States.

Comp. Tupper, of Mississippi, also offered the following report from the Committee on the Amendment of the Constitution, which was laid on the table :

The committee to whom was referred the proposed amendment of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, respectfully report : That, having had the subject under consideration, they recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter be amended, by adding in the fourth line of the seventh section of the first article thereof, after the word "jurisdiction," the words "provided, that each State Grand Chapter may, in their discretion, increase or diminish the fees for Dispensations and Charters of Chapters under their respective jurisdictions."

T. C. TUPPER,
JOHN L. LEWIS, JR.,
L. L. STEVENSON,
J. J. PRENTISS,
A. B. THOMPSON.

Committee.

At 11½ o'clock, the General Grand Chapter was called from labor, for the purpose of witnessing an exemplification of the work by St. Paul's Chapter, of Boston.

At 2¼ o'clock, the General Grand Chapter was called to labor.

The M. E. General Grand High Priest announced M. E. Companions Storer of Connecticut, Courtney, of Maryland, and Lewis, of Louisiana, as the Committee on the next Place of Meeting.

The Committee of Finance, through their Chairman, submitted the following report, which was accepted. The blank in the second resolution having been filled with the sum of \$3,000, the report and resolutions were laid on the table :

The Committee on Finance beg leave to report, that they have examined the account of the General Grand Treasurer, which is hereunto attached, and find the same in all respects correct. It shows a balance in his hands of \$4,854 26.

The accounts rendered by the Deputy General Grand High Priest and General Grand Scribe, have not been placed in the hands of the committee.

The accounts of the General Grand King and General Grand Secretary, have been examined, and appear to be correct.

A letter has been placed in the hands of the committee, from the Secretary of Jacksonville Chapter, No. 3, Illinois, to the Gen-

eral Grand Secretary, which states that the exaltation fees due from that Chapter to the General Grand Chapter, have been forwarded—but the Treasurer informs the committee he has not received them.

In examining the accounts of the several General Grand Officers, the committee notice that the practice has been, to retain money in their hands for some length of time, instead of paying the same immediately to the General Grand Treasurer, as required by the Constitution. The Treasurer is the only legitimate depository of the funds of the Chapter, and the committee respectfully recommend that the requirements of the Constitution be complied with hereafter.

Connected with their duty, the committee conceive, is the safe keeping of the funds of the Institution, and they recommend, with the entire approbation of the present incumbent, that the Treasurer be required to give security for the faithful discharge of of his duty.

The committee are also of opinion that a portion of the funds of the Chapter should be invested in some manner to be accumulating interest, and therefore offer the following resolutions :

O. HUNGERFORD,
Chairman.

Resolved, That the General Grand Treasurer be required to give security for the faithful discharge of his duty, to Robert P. Dunlap in trust, for the General Grand Chapter, and such as shall be approved of by the General Grand Council.

Resolved, That the General Grand Treasurer be directed to invest \$3,000 of the funds of this General Grand Chapter in such manner as he shall deem for the interest of the Chapter.

Comp. Hungerford, from the same committee, offered the following report, which was adopted, the blank having been filled with the sum of ninety-four dollars :

In compliance with instructions, the Committee on Finance report the following resolution :

Resolved, That ninety-four dollars be refunded to Lafayette Chapter, of Vermont.

On motion, it was

Resolved, 'That to-morrow, 12 o'clock, be assigned as the hour for witnessing a further exemplification of the Work, by St. Paul's Royal Arch Chapter.

M. E. Comp. Hubbard, of Ohio, submitted the following report on the memorial of Comp. John Gedge, which was read and laid on the table :

The committee to whom was referred the resolution on the subject of the memorial of Comp. John Gedge to the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, have had the same under consideration, and herewith submit the following

R E P O R T .

That in the opinion of your committee, the facts and reasonings embodied in the memorial under consideration are entitled to great weight, and would incline your committee, if, as they conceive, they were not committed and bound by their relations to Royal Arch Masonry in the United States to the contrary, to recommend a compliance with the request of the memorialist ; so far at least as to admit to fellowship, in Chapters and otherwise as Royal Arch Masons only, those who had been duly exalted to that degree according to the rules of the Order in England, and who were otherwise in good standing as Royal Arch Masons, though not possessed of the "intercalary" degrees of Mark, Past and Most Excellent Master. But your committee do not consider this an open question. They suppose that under the Constitutions of this Grand Body, and of all the Subordinates, by reason of the manner in which each Royal Arch Mason receives that degree, he is estopped and precluded from aiding in opening or holding a Royal Arch Chapter, except with the requisite number of Companions, who have received the several preceding degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark, Past and Most Excellent Master.

Your committee would also advert to the fact, that at a previous session (1844) of this General Grand Body, this same question received a thorough examination at the hands of an experienced committee, whose report unanimously approved by this body, was in accordance with the conclusions hereinbefore stated by this, your committee. Your committee therefore consider the question no longer an open one, legislatively or constitutionally. It should be considered as a matter *res adjudicata*.

In order, however, to remedy the existing difficulties, at least as far as is in the power of this General Grand Body, your committee herewith recommend for adoption the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Constitution of this General Grand Body be amended by the adoption of the following as sections 6 and 7 of the 3d article, to wit :

That any worthy Companion, from without the jurisdiction of the United States, who may present himself as a Royal Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of his having received that degree, that each and every Chapter under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter have liberty, and they are hereby authorized, to confer the degeees of Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, on such Companions, (who have not heretofore received them,) to the end that they may be healed and thereby become regular Royal Arch Masons, free of charge.

SEC. 2. That the Subordinate Chapter so conferring said degrees, shall be exempt from paying any dues therefor.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

W. B. HUBBARD,
 PHILIP C. TUCKER,
 JOHN WILLIAMS,
 Wm. H. ELLIS.

Adjourned.

FRIDAY, Sept. 13, 1850.

The General Grand Chapter met agreeably to adjournment.

Comp. Tucker, of Vermont, from the committee on the inquiry submitted by Comp. Graff, of Ohio, offered the following report, which, on his motion, was laid upon the table :

To the General Grand Chapter of the United States :

The undersigned committee to which was referred a resolution of inquiry as to whether "it is competent for a Royal Arch Chapter to confer the Chapter degrees on a Master Mason who has but one arm," respectfully report, that so far as the precise question referred to them is concerned, they are not aware of the existence of any Masonic authority by which the subject has been considered. Without, therefore, claiming to present the question on the ground of authority, they can only consider it in view of general Masonic polity. It has long been a question in the blue Lodges, whether any maimed person is admissible to the three first degrees ; and the question has been settled differently in different Grand Lodges. As an original rule, considered in view of the ancient operative character of Masonry, doubtless no maimed brother was admissible ; but, in view of the modern speculative character of the Order only, doubtless this rule has been strongly modified in practice. Although some Grand Lodges still adhere to the ancient rule, others have limited it by holding, that if the candidate be not so far maimed as to disenable him from complying physically with the forms and ceremonies of the Order, he ought not to be excluded. As a mere moral question, doubtless the Order in general are inclined to modify the ancient practice. As a question of Masonic law, your committee do not believe that the old rule can be considered as an ancient and essential landmark which is to be treated as immutable forever. On the contrary, they consider it a mere question of convenience and policy, which may be properly modified by competent Masonic authority.

With these views as to the question considered relatively to the blue Lodges, your committee necessarily conclude that the whole

subject is one fairly open to Masonic regulation as to the Chapter degrees.

Confining themselves to the naked question referred to them, they recommend the adoption by this Body, of the following resolution :

Resolved, That hereafter it shall be considered competent for a Royal Arch Chapter to confer the Chapter degrees on a Master Mason who has but one arm.

Respectfully submitted,

CYRUS GOODELL,
PHILIP C. TUCKER,
SAMUEL S. BUTLER,

Boston, *September 13, 1850.*

Committee.

M. E. Comp. French, from the Committee on Credentials, submitted the following additional report, which was adopted :

The Committee on Credentials report, that Scott J. Tallman is entitled to a seat in this General Grand Chapter, as proxy for J. C. Humphreys, G. H. P. of the Grand Chapter of Maine, M. E. Comp. Humphreys having been present, and having left the city.

B. B. FRENCH,

September 13, 1850.

for the Committee.

M. E. Comp. Lewis, in behalf of the Committee on Dispensations, submitted the following additional report, which was adopted :

The Committee on Dispensations and new Chapters, have examined the By-Laws, returns, &c., of Brazos Chapter, No. 8, held in the town of Washington, State of Texas, find the same correct, and recommend that a Charter be granted to said Chapter, and for that purpose offer the following resolution :

Resolved, That a Charter be granted to Brazos Chapter, No. 8, at Washington, State of Texas, on payment of the usual fees and dues.

To the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the United States :

Your Committee on Dispensations and new Chapters, beg leave to report, that they have examined the By-Laws, work, and returns of Washington Chapter, No. 2, at Houston, Texas, and approve of the same as correct, and in accordance with the request of that Chapter, recommend that a Charter be granted on the payment of the usual fees.

M. E. General Grand High Priest appointed M. E. Comp. Whitaker, of Rhode Island, on the Committee on Work, in the place of Comp. Fuller, who had left the city.

M. E. Comp. Stapleton, submitted a report of his doings as General Grand Secretary, *pro tem.*, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

M. E. Comp. French offered the following resolution which was adopted :

Resolved, That the installation of the officers of this General Grand Chapter, be performed in public, on Monday next, at such hour as the M. E. Grand High Priest may determine.

M. E. Comp. French was added to the Committee on Finance, in the place of Comp. Hungerford, who had obtained leave of absence.

The report of the Committee on Appeals, was taken from the table and adopted.

M. E. Comp. Stapleton submitted sundry papers in relation to Whitfield Chapter, in the State of Arkansas, which were referred to the Committee on Dispensations.

M. E. Comp. Hubbard submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the Committee on fixing a time for the next meeting of this General Grand Chapter, be and they are hereby authorized to confer with a committee appointed by the General Grand Encampment for the purpose of fixing upon a place for the permanent sessions of that Body, and with power to agree upon a place for the permanent meetings of this Grand Body.

The report of the Committee on Appeals, in the case of Comp. Van Houten and others, was taken from the table and adopted.

M. E. Comp. Lewis, of New York, offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That in the opinion of this General Grand Chapter, all persons who have been expelled or suspended for un-Masonic conduct by any regular Lodge or Grand Lodge of competent jurisdiction from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, should be forbidden to visit or sit in any Grand or Subordinate Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in this jurisdiction, or in the General Grand Chapter ; and that it is the duty of Royal Arch Masons to abstain from all Masonic communication with persons so expelled or suspended, until they shall be duly restored to those rights and privileges.

M. E. Comp. Blaney was appointed on the Committee on Work, in place of Comp. Lee, who had obtained leave of absence.

M. E. Comp. Courtney, from the Committee on doings of Grand Officers, offered the following report, which was adopted :

The committee to whom was referred the doings of the General Grand Officers, beg leave to report—

That they have examined the reports of the several General Grand Officers submitted to them, and take pleasure in reporting that they evince a zeal for the good of the Order, highly commendable, and have been strictly in conformity with the Constitution and usages of this General Grand Body.

The resolution in relation to Royal Arch Masonry in Florida, was reported back by the above Committee, and laid on the table.

The report of the Committee on Finance, was taken from the table, and during its pendency the General Grand Chapter was called from labor for the purpose of witnessing the further exemplification of the work by the Companions of Boston.

FRIDAY—*continued.*

The General Grand Chapter having attended to an exemplification of the work, was called to order at 2 o'clock, and the consideration of the report of the Committee on Finance was resumed, when the report and resolutions were adopted.

M. E. Comp. Lewis, of the Committee on Dispensations, submitted the following additional report, which, together with the resolutions, was adopted :

The Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters, respectfully report—

That a number of Chapters working under Dispensations, have made application for charters, but have failed to send up the record of their proceedings, so that your committee are unable to say whether their doings have been regular or not.

Your committee, nevertheless, are of opinion that these Chapters ought not to be dissolved, but that they are entitled to such relief as this General Grand Body can afford them. They therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions :

Resolved, That the Dispensations heretofore granted to Reynolds Chapter, in Cambridge, State of Illinois ; Stapleton Chapter, in Rushville, State of Illinois ; Springfield Chapter, in Springfield, State of Illinois ; Quincy Chapter, in Quincy, State of Illinois ; Friendship Chapter, in El Dorado, State of Arkansas ; be continued in force until the next triennial meeting of this General Grand Chapter, unless sooner revoked by lawful authority.

Resolved, That the General Grand High Priest be authorized, in his discretion, to grant Charters to such of said Chapters as shall furnish him with the constitutional evidence of their being worthy and entitled to the same.

The report of the Committee on the Memorial of Companion John Gedge, was taken from the table, and, with the resolutions, adopted. Adjourned.

SATURDAY, September 14, 1850.

Companion Lewis, of Louisiana, offered the following report from the Committee on Dispensations, which, with the resolution appended, was adopted :

The Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters, respectfully report—

That they have examined the returns, &c., from Rising Star Chapter, held in San Augustine, State of Texas, and recommend that a Charter be granted to said Chapter.

Whitfield Chapter, working under Dispensation, in Camden, State of Arkansas, has also applied for a Charter, but has sent up neither By-Laws nor record of proceedings.

They therefore recommend that the Dispensation to said Chapter be continued in force until the next triennial meeting of this General Grand Chapter, unless sooner revoked by lawful authority.

Comp. Lewis, of Louisiana, also offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the Dispensations granted to San Jacinto, Jerusalem and Trinity Chapters, in Texas, be continued, and they be authorized to surrender them, and take out Charters from the Grand Chapter of that State, if one be organized previous to the next meeting of the General Grand Chapter.

Comp. Storer, of Connecticut, from the committee on the next place of meeting, submitted the following report, which, with the *first* resolution, was adopted :

To the General Grand Chapter of the United States :

The committee appointed to designate a place for the next triennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter, have attended to the duty assigned them, and would submit the following resolution :

Resolved, That the next triennial convocation of this General Grand Chapter be held in the city of Lexington, in the State of Kentucky.

The committee also beg leave to submit a resolution for an amendment of the Constitution, to be laid over for consideration at the next triennial convocation :

Resolved, That the 1st Section of the 1st Article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter be so amended as to fix the

permanent location of the General Grand Chapter at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

E. G. STORER,

THOS. H. LEWIS,

E. S. COURTNEY.

The second resolution of the preceding report was ordered to lie over until the next triennial session of the General Grand Chapter.

On motion of Comp. Stevenson, of North Carolina, the report of the Committee on amending the Constitution, submitted on Thursday, was taken from the table, and

On motion of Comp. Lewis, of Louisiana, it was rejected.

M. E. Comp. Hubbard, of the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was adopted :

The Committee on Finance beg leave to make this their further report—

That they have examined the report and accounts of the M. E. Deputy General Grand High Priest, and find said account correct, and that he has received of moneys belonging to this General Grand Chapter, in the whole, - - - - - \$645 66

That he has paid over to the General Grand Treas-

urer, - - - - - \$622 14

Retained for items of expense, postages, &c., 23 15

—————\$645 65

Most Excellent Companion Stewart, of Kentucky, offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That on the first day of each session of this Most Excellent General Grand Chapter, there shall be appointed the following committees :

On Credentials ; On Returns ; On Grievances ; On Finance ; On Foreign Communications ; On Masonic Jurisprudence.

Companion Tallman, of Maine, offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to report at the next triennial meeting, whether any of the Chapter degrees may be conferred on persons maimed or otherwise imperfect in body.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest appointed the following Companions to compose the committee contemplated by the preceding resolution, viz. : Tucker, of Vermont, Gould, of Georgia, and Tallman, of Maine.

Companion Philip C. Tucker, Jr., was, on the report of the Committee on Credentials, recognized as proxy for Companion Samuel Butler, Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Vermont, who had obtained leave of absence.

Most Excellent Companion Haswell, of Vermont, offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, be transmitted by the present General Grand Secretary, to Companion Charles Gilman, of California, for the able and satisfactory manner in which he has heretofore discharged the duties of General Grand Secretary of this Grand Body, as well as for the Masonic zeal he still manifests in the cause of Masonry upon the shores of the Pacific, and that a suitable jewel be presented to him by this General Grand Body, to be procured by the General Grand Treasurer.

Most Excellent Companion Williams, of Maine, was appointed by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest to fill the vacancy in the Committee on Work, occasioned by the absence of Companion Lee, of Michigan.

Most Excellent Companion Lewis, Jr., of New York, submitted the written report of the Committee on Work, which was amended and adopted as follows :

To the General Grand Chapter of the United States :

The undersigned, the Committee on Work and Lectures, have endeavored to discharge the very important and responsible duties devolved upon us, by a close and attentive consideration of and

application to the subject matter confided to us. We were deeply sensible of the importance and necessity of uniformity in the Work of Arch Masonry in the United States, not only as a question of convenience and expediency, but as a matter of grave principle.

The manner in which the work was exemplified is already known to this General Grand Chapter, and we cannot forbear expressing our deep sense of obligation to the officers and companions of St. Paul's Chapter, of Boston, for their prompt and ready compliance with the wishes of this General Grand Chapter in exemplifying the Work of the Chapter Degrees in their presence, and at great inconvenience to the much esteemed companions of that Chapter, and their accomplished presiding officer, Most Excellent Companion Stephen Lovell. Perhaps we could not have more deeply expressed our gratification than by doing as we have done—making it the basis upon which to act, and to which we have added, varied, and modified, as we deemed consistent with the ancient landmarks of Royal Arch Masonry.

We have already said that we have regarded uniformity as necessary and vitally important, and we wish to propose such plan as shall not only promote, but maintain it. But by uniformity, we do not wish to be understood as perfect sameness of expression; we have avoided verbal criticism, and the fixing modes of expression, aiming only at uniformity of action, and have only retained peculiar words and phrases where they were necessary to elucidate and give force to some principle.

The committee were gratified on assembling to find that, although representing every section of the Union, there was so little essential difference in the mode and manner of the Work; and all such essential differences we have aimed to reconcile and remove. The slight variances even in the modes of expression were remarkable, when we consider the peculiarities of the vernacular tongue in different sections of the United States.

The committee will add another remark, that while we do regard unity and even identity of language as desirable, yet we perceive that it is neither attainable or practicable, nor do we regard

- it as necessary, except in the cases above cited. The object of all language is to express ideas of which words are but the arbitrary symbols ; and as in Masonry certain great moral as well as religious truths are developed and illustrated, valuable to man both here and hereafter, and teaching him his duty to his Maker, his country, his social circle, and to himself, and especially to the great family of man. If those truths are but conveyed to the mind intelligently, forcibly, truthfully, and yet so agreeably, as to bring the mind to love that truth, then the great end and object of our institution has been answered.

We herewith submit our verbal report of the conclusions to which the committee have arrived, and to which we invite your careful consideration and attention.

But the committee feel that they have not fully discharged their duty without adverting to some plan to make the result of their labors available. This has been with us a subject of anxious care and thought. We have already observed that uniformity and the preservation of the great principles and landmarks of Royal Arch Masonry has been the object sought by us.

As some time will elapse before the system here agreed on can be disseminated, and as we have not professed to perfect all the details of the system, we recommend the adoption of the following resolutions :

All of which is respectfully submitted,

ROBERT P. DUNLAP,
THOS. H. LEWIS,
PAUL DEAN,
NATHANIEL COFFIN,
BENJAMIN HUNTOON,
THOS. WHITAKER,
L. L. STEVENSON,
JOHN L. LEWIS, Jr.,
STEPHEN LOVELL,
JAMES V. Z. BLANEY.

Resolved, That in all things not decided upon at this meeting of the General Grand Chapter, as a system of Work to be observed in Chapters under this jurisdiction, the Work and Lectures remain as they were or may be modified under the supervision and direction of the presiding officers of the several Chapters and Grand Chapters under this jurisdiction, until otherwise further directed by the General Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That for the purpose of introducing the mode of Work and Lectures now agreed upon, the four first officers of this General Grand Chapter be requested to take such measures as they may think best, for diffusing as extensively as may be, the knowledge of the same to the several Chapters under this jurisdiction.

M. E. Comp. Lewis, Jr., of New York, assisted by M. E. Comp. Lovell of Massachusetts, presented the verbal report of the Committee on Work, which, after careful consideration and discussion, was unanimously adopted as the Work sanctioned by this General Grand Chapter, for the use of the Chapters under its jurisdiction.

M. E. Comp. Blaney submitted a report from the Committee on the establishment of a Representative Fund, and compensation to Grand Officers, which was read and laid on the table.

Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The General Grand Chapter met agreeably to adjournment.

The report of the Committee on the creation of a Representative Fund and compensation to General Grand Officers, was taken from the table.

M. E. Comp. Lewis, of Louisiana, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on the creation of a Representative Fund and a fixed compensation to the General Grand Officers be postponed until the next triennial communication of this General Grand Chapter ; and that the State Grand Chapters be requested to express their opinions on this subject.

Said report is as follows :

*To the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the
United States of America :*

The committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of the establishment of a Representative Fund for the payment of the necessary expenses of Delegates to the General Grand Chapter, and to report permanent salaries for the General Grand Officers, would beg leave respectfully to report, that they have had the same under consideration, and would offer the following as the result of their deliberations :

Your committee presume that it will be generally conceded, that it is highly desirable in all representative bodies that the expenses of representation should fall as equally as possible upon all the subordinates entitled to such representation.

Such, however, is far from being the case under the present regulations of this General Grand Chapter. No provisions have as yet been made for defraying the expenses of Delegates or even Grand Officers. Each Grand Chapter and Subordinate Chapter is obliged to pay the expenses of its own Delegate, or the Delegate is obliged to pay his own expenses. It is consequently the case that as the General Grand Chapter mostly holds its meetings in the Eastern or central cities of the United States, the Grand Chapters in the South, Southwest, West, and Northwest, are obliged to bear much heavier expense in securing their representation than the more fortunate Grand Chapters of the Eastern and Middle States, and are also deprived of the pleasure and instruction they might receive from social and Masonic intercourse with the General Grand Officers, and Delegates from other sections of the Union.

Unfortunately, those very Grand Chapters and Chapters upon whom these expenses fall the most heavily, are the very ones which, from their youth, their location in more recently settled and less wealthy sections of the Union, and in regions most afflicted with fatal epidemic diseases and consequent destitution among their members, are least able to spare the cost of representation in this

Grand Body from funds meagre in themselves, and much required for charitable purposes.

This evil will be increased should the General Grand Chapter at any time conclude to locate itself permanently. The Grand Chapters in the vicinity of such location would then be at no expense for representation, while those which are far removed would feel the burden heavily and constantly. In consequence of this, a much larger representation is to be expected at all meetings of this General Grand Chapter from Grand Chapters located near the permanent place of meeting, than from those which are far distant, thus giving a controlling influence to a particular section of the Union over others having an equal right in the deliberations and decisions of this General Grand Body. This is an evil which past experience abundantly proves to be pregnant with bickerings and divisions, and may, unless remedied, one day be the means of dividing, if not of dissolving this General Grand Chapter.

The committee are of opinion that these considerations show defects in the regulations of this General Grand Body, which should speedily be remedied. The remedy, they think, measurably if not entirely, is to be found in the establishment of a Representative Fund, from which the actual expenses of Delegates shall be paid.

The plan which your committee would propose for the establishment and permanent existence of a Representative Fund, will be found in certain resolutions appended to this report.

In the plan proposed, it will be observed that the committee recommend the usually unpopular means of direct taxation of the bodies entitled to representation, as the only mode apparent to them of equalizing the expenses of all the Grand Chapters. Your committee are aware that direct taxation has never been resorted to by this General Grand Chapter, its funds having heretofore been derived from the fees for granting Dispensations and Charters to, and dues from, Subordinate Chapters, and Territories in which there is no Grand Chapter ; but the time must shortly arrive when that source will be cut off by the constitution of Grand Chapters

in all the States and Territories of the Union. Direct taxation of Grand Chapters must then be resorted to ; and if then, why should it be objectionable now when a great injustice and inequality requires it for its remedy.

The greater difficulty which the committee have found, consists in fixing a sum necessary to be assessed upon each Grand Chapter to establish a Representative Fund sufficient to meet, without materially exceeding, the expenses of Delegates. The sum mentioned in the appended resolutions has seemed to them to answer all requirements.

As regards the expediency of fixing permanent salaries for General Grand Officers which has also been referred to the committee for consideration, they are of opinion that the honors of the office should and doubtless always will be deemed by the incumbent sufficient compensation for the services to be performed, excepting the office of General Grand Secretary, whose arduous duties obviously require pecuniary remuneration. They also doubt if the payment of salaries, as such, be in accordance with Masonic usage or propriety. They, however, deem it but just that the actual outlay of the General Grand Officers in going to and returning from the place appointed for the meeting of the General Grand Chapter, their expenses while in attendance upon the same, and all expenses incurred for postage, stationery and all other things necessary to the performance of their respective duties, should be refunded to them. In accordance with this opinion, your committee append resolution No. 4, and recommend its adoption.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES V. Z. BLANEY,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
E. G. STORER.

The following are the resolutions referred to in the body of this report :

Whereas, it is highly desirable that the cost of representation in this General Grand Chapter should fall equally upon all the Grand Chapters entitled to representation therein ; Therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That a Representative Fund be established, by an equal assessment upon each and every Grand Chapter entitled to representation in this General Grand Chapter ; which fund shall be applied solely and exclusively to the payment of mileage and per diem to delegates of Grand Chapters, as provided for in the following resolutions :

2. *Resolved*, That to establish a Representative Fund, an assessment be and is hereby made upon each and every Grand Chapter under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, of the sum of \$50, said sum to be paid to the General Grand Secretary on or before the first day of August, 1853 ; and that a like assessment be made at each and every meeting, whether triennial or special, of this General Grand Chapter, of an assessment sufficient to defray the mileage and per diem of representatives, as provided for in resolution, No. 3, to the next meeting of the same.

3. *Resolved*, That each and every Grand Chapter which shall be represented at any meeting of this General Grand Chapter shall be entitled to be paid, from the Representative Fund, three cents per mile, for each and every mile, from the residence of the delegate to the place of meeting, going and returning, (the distance to be computed by the nearest usually travelled route,) and \$1 50 per diem for each and every day which said delegate shall actually be in attendance on the General Grand Chapter : *Provided*, That no Grand Chapter shall be entitled to draw mileage and per diem for more than one delegate, at each and every meeting of this Grand Chapter.

4. *Resolved*, That each and every elected officer of this General Grand Chapter shall be entitled, at each meeting of the same, to receive five cents per mile, going and returning, for every mile from his residence to the place of meeting, (the distance to be computed by the nearest usually travelled route,) and \$2 per diem for every day which he shall actually be present, and in performance of his duties in the General Grand Chapter ; also, that all actual expenses incurred by him in the performance of his official duties during the term of his office shall be refunded, his account

for the same having been presented to the General Grand Chapter at a regular meeting, and audited by the Committee on Finance :

Provided, That all the sums contemplated to be paid by this resolution be paid from the General Fund of the General Grand Chapter, and *not* from the Representative Fund.

Companion Stevenson, of North Carolina, from the Committee on the R. and S. M. degrees, reported verbally, that in the opinion of the committee, it is inexpedient for this General Grand Chapter to take any action on the subject of forming a General Grand Council of R. and S. Masters; which report was adopted.

Companion French, in behalf of the Committee on Finance, offered the following additional report, which was adopted :

The committee, to which was referred the matter of compensation to the Grand Officers, report, in addition to their former report, that there be allowed to Companion C. W. Moore, in addition to what has been already allowed, twenty-five dollars, for the performance of his duties as Grand Secretary *pro tem*.

Companion Lewis, Jr., of New York, offered the following resolution, which was indefinitely postponed :

Whereas, the 9th section of the 1st article of the Constitution of this General Grand Chapter forbids the conferring of any degree in Masonry not recognized as a constitutional degree, and doubts exist as to what are "constitutional degrees," as there referred to ; therefore,

Resolved, That in the opinion of this General Grand Chapter, those are constitutional Masonic degrees only which are conferred in regular Blue Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Encampments of Knights Templars, and the appendant Orders, Councils of Royal and Select Masters, and Supreme Councils of the "Ancient and Accepted Rite," and their inferior jurisdictions.

MONDAY, September 16, 1850.

The General Grand Chapter met agreeably to adjournment.

The G. S. Secretary presented the returns, with the dues of Springfield Chapter, No. 1, of Springfield, Illinois, which were passed over to the General Grand Treasurer.

The General Grand Chapter was then adjourned to three o'clock, P. M., for the installation of officers.

MONDAY, *Sept. 16—3 P. M.*

The General Grand Chapter met according to adjournment.

A procession was formed, and the General Grand Chapter proceeded to the public lecture-room in the Masonic Temple, where it was welcomed in the most eloquent and appropriate manner by the Most Excellent and Rev. Benjamin Huntoon, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, to which the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest appropriately replied.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, Hon. Robert P. Dunlap, was duly installed by Most Excellent and Rev. Paul Dean, Past General Grand High Priest, after which the General Grand High Priest, proceeded to instal the other General Grand Officers elect.

The Grand Chapter then returned to the hall, and was closed in ancient, and ample form, to meet at Lexington, in the State of Kentucky, on the second Tuesday in September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

B. B. FRENCH,

General Grand Secretary.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL
ARCH MASONS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*As amended at the Triennial Meeting, begun and held in the City of Boston,
on Tuesday, September 10, 1850, and the year of the Order, 2384.*

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

Of the General Grand Chapter.

SECTION 1. There shall be a General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America, which shall be holden triennially, on the second Tuesday in September, at such place as shall from time to time be designated for that purpose, and at which time the General Grand Officers shall be elected by ballot, and installed.

SEC. 2. The General Grand Chapter shall have and maintain jurisdiction over all State Grand Chapters, and over Chapters in those States, Districts, Republics, or Territories, which recognize this jurisdiction, and where there is no Grand Chapter regularly established, agreeably to the provisions of this Constitution ; and shall have authority to suspend the proceedings of such State Grand Chapters, and such Chapters in States where there is no Grand Chapter, as may knowingly violate any of the provisions of this Constitution ; to settle all difficulties which may arise, and to give such advice and instruction as may seem most conducive to their peace, and to the advancement of the great cause of benevolence and virtue.

SEC. 3. The officers of the General Grand Chapter shall consist of a General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, General Grand Scribe, General Grand Secretary, General Grand Treasurer, General Grand Chaplain,

and General Grand Marshal ; these, together with the Past General Grand High Priest, Past Deputy General Grand High Priest, Past General Grand King, Past General Grand Scribe, the first four officers of every State Grand Chapter under this jurisdiction, or the proxies of the first four General Grand Officers, and of the first four officers of each State Grand Chapter aforesaid, shall compose the General Grand Chapter : *Provided*, That any Chapter under this jurisdiction, in any State, District, or Territory, where there is no Grand Chapter duly established, shall have a right to appear by its first three officers, or any one or two of them ; which officers shall collectively have one vote : *And provided, also*, That all Past Grand High Priests of State Grand Chapters shall have a right to seats in this General Grand Chapter ; but said Past Grand High Priests shall have no vote, but only a consulting voice therein.

SEC. 4. On all questions to be decided by the General Grand Chapter, each State Grand Chapter shall be entitled to four votes by its representative or representatives.

The General Grand Officers when present, shall each have one vote. And no General Grand Officer shall be allowed to take a seat in the General Grand Chapter, as the representative of any State Grand Chapter—nor shall any member of the General Grand Chapter be permitted to vote as proxy, while the person giving the proxy is present—nor shall any person be admitted into the General Grand Chapter as the representative of more than one State Grand Chapter at one and the same time.

SEC. 5. The General Grand High Priest and Deputy General Grand High Priest, shall have authority to call a meeting of the General Grand Chapter, whenever they may consider it expedient or necessary ; and it shall be their duty so to do, when properly requested by a majority of the State Grand Chapters, of which four months notice shall be given of the time and place of meeting.

SEC. 6. The General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, shall severally have power and authority to grant Dispensations, for

a limited length of time, for new Royal Arch Chapters and Lodges of the appendant Orders, in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, in which there is not a Grand Chapter regularly established, when, in their opinion, the good of the Craft may require the same ; which term of time shall in no case extend beyond the time of the next Triennial Meeting of the General Grand Chapter; but no new Chapter shall be established in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, where there is a Chapter, within a reasonable distance, under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, without the approbation of the Chapter nearest to the place where said new Chapter is proposed to be located ; and in all cases of such Dispensation, the officer who may grant the same, shall immediately notify the General Grand Secretary thereof, and make report of the same at the next Triennial Meeting of this General Grand Chapter, when the General Grand Chapter may grant the said Chapter a Charter.

SEC. 7. The fees for instituting a new Royal Arch Chapter with subordinate degrees, shall be ninety dollars, and no more ; and no credit shall be given for Dispensations or Charters, or for conferring the degrees, in any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction. And every Chapter holden by Dispensation or Charter under this jurisdiction, shall pay into the treasury of the General Grand Chapter, the sum of two dollars for each Companion therein exalted, until such time as a Grand Chapter shall be regularly established in the State, Country, Republic, or Territory in which such subordinate Chapter is located. The Secretary shall be paid by the petitioners ten dollars for his services in furnishing the Charter.

The fees in the several States for conferring the several degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, shall not be less than twenty dollars ; and the fees for the advancement of a candidate to the degree of Mark Master in all Chapters and Lodges shall not be less than four dollars.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, to improve and perfect themselves in the

sublime Arts, and work of Mark Masters, Past Masters, Most Excellent Masters, and Royal Arch Masons ; to make themselves Masters of the several Masonic Lectures, and ancient charges, to consult with each other, and with the Grand, and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the several State Grand Chapters aforesaid, for the purpose of adopting measures suitable and proper for diffusing a knowledge of the said Lectures and Charges. And the better to accomplish this laudable object, the aforesaid officers are hereby severally authorized and empowered to visit and preside in any Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Lodge of Most Excellent Master, Mark, and Past Master Masons throughout the said States, and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the Fraternity may require ; always adhering to the ancient landmarks of the Order.

SEC. 9. No Royal Arch Mason, within the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, shall be permitted to confer any degree in Masonry, not recognized as a constitutional degree ; nor to establish any society of Masons not recognized as a constitutional body ; and the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter, or any three of them, shall in all cases have authority to decide all constitutional questions under this section ; nor shall any Royal Arch Mason be permitted to give lectures, or instruction on the several degrees of Masonry, conferred by or under the authority of the General Grand Chapter, except he or they shall have been duly authorized by two of the State Grand Officers ; which authority shall be given under their hands and the seal of the State Grand Chapter, attested by their Grand Secretary.

SEC. 10. In all cases of the absence of an officer from any body of Masons, instituted or holden by virtue of this Constitution, the officer next in rank shall occupy his place : unless through courtesy, or for other reasons he should decline in favor of another companion or brother ; and in case of the absence of all the officers from any regular meeting of either of the bodies aforesaid, the members present shall designate some suitable companions or brethren to fill the several stations.

SEC. 11. In every Chapter and Lodge under this jurisdiction, all questions, (except the admission of members or candidates, which shall require an unanimous ballot,) shall be considered and determined in such way and manner, as such Chapters and Lodges, may all circumstances considered, find most conducive to their harmony and permanent prosperity : *Provided*, They do not in any case interfere with, or infringe on the regulations of the General Grand Chapter.

SEC. 12. The General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter shall have and keep a seal, which shall be affixed to all his communications.

SEC. 13. Should any casualty, at any time hereafter, prevent the triennial election of officers, the several officers shall retain their respective offices until successors are duly elected and qualified.

ARTICLE II.

Of State Grand Chapters.

SECTION 1. The State Grand Chapters shall severally consist of a Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal ; and likewise, of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the time being, of the several Chapters over which they shall respectively preside, and of the Past Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings, and Scribes, of the said Grand Chapters ; and the said Grand Chapters shall have full power and authority to elect such other officers, and to establish such rules and regulations, as they shall, from time to time, consider necessary and proper : *Provided*, such regulations do not in any way interfere with the provisions of this Constitution.

SEC. 2. The State Grand Chapters shall severally be holden once in every year, and oftener if they may consider it expedient or necessary, at such time and place as they shall respectively direct ; and, at their annual meetings, the constitutional officers shall be elected, or appointed in such manner as shall be provided

for by their rules and regulations, and installed into their respective offices ; and the Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priests, respectively, for the time being, may call special meetings, to be holden at such times and places as they may think proper.

SEC. 3. The several State Grand Chapters shall have the sole government and superintendence of the several Royal Arch Chapters, and Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons, within their respective jurisdictions, to assign their limits, and to settle the controversies that may happen between them ; and shall have power, under their respective seals and the signs manual of their respective Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings, and Scribes, attested by their respective Grand Secretaries, to constitute new Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, within their respective jurisdictions ; but their jurisdictions shall in no case be construed to extend beyond the limits of the State, except by consent of the General Grand Chapter.

SEC. 4. The Grand, and Deputy Grand High Priests, severally, shall have the power and authority, whenever they shall deem it expedient, during the recess of the Grand Chapter of which they are officers, to grant letters of Dispensation, under their respective hands and private seals, to a competent number of petitioners, possessing the qualifications required by the 7th Section of the 2d Article of this Constitution, empowering them to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for a certain specified term of time : *Provided*, That the said term of time shall not extend beyond the next meeting of the Grand Chapter of the State in which such Dispensation shall be granted : *And provided further*, That the same fees as are required by this Constitution for Charters, shall be first deposited in the hands of the Grand Treasurer. And in all cases of such Dispensation, the officers who may grant the same, shall make report thereof at the next stated meeting of the Grand Chapter of his jurisdiction, when the said Grand Chapter may either continue or recall the said Dispensation, or may grant the petitioners a Charter of Constitution. And in case such Charter shall be granted, the fees first deposited shall be credited in pay-

ment for the same ; but if a Charter should not be granted, nor the Dispensation continued, the said fees shall be refunded to the petitioners, excepting only such part thereof as shall have been actually expended by means of their application.

SEC. 5. No Dispensation or Charter shall be granted for instituting Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, or Mark Masters, independent of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

SEC. 6. The Grand Chapters shall have power, severally, to require from the several Chapters under their respective jurisdictions, such reasonable proportion of sums received by them for the exaltation or advancement of candidates, and such certain annual sums from their respective members, as by their ordinances or regulations shall be appointed ; all which said sums or dues shall be made good and paid annually by the said Chapters, respectively, into the Treasury of the Grand Chapter under which they hold their authority, on or before the first day of the respective annual meetings of the several Grand Chapters.

SEC. 7. No Dispensation or Charter for the institution of a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons shall be granted, except upon the petition of nine regular Royal Arch Masons ; which petition shall be accompanied with a certificate from the Chapter nearest to the place where the new Chapter is intended to be opened, vouching for the moral character and Masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending that a Dispensation or Charter be granted them.

SEC. 8. The Grand Secretaries of the State Grand Chapters shall, severally, make an annual communication to each other, and also to the Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, containing a list of Grand Officers, and all such other matters as may be deemed necessary for the mutual benefit and information of the said Grand Chapters. And the said Grand Secretaries shall also regularly transmit to the Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, a copy of all their By-Laws and regulations ; and also a copy of their proceedings, annually, to each of the officers of the General Grand Chapter ; and the State Grand Chapters shall see that their Secretaries faithfully and punctually perform this duty.

SEC. 9. Whenever there shall have been three Chapters regularly instituted and consecrated in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, by virtue of authority derived from this Constitution, a Grand Chapter shall be established, so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate : *Provided*, that the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter be first obtained. And said Grand Chapters, by their regular officers, shall assemble in some suitable place, elect their officers, and make such rules and regulations for their government as may be necessary—not inconsistent with the regulations of the General Grand Chapter.

SEC. 10. No person shall be permitted to take a seat in any State Grand Chapter, as the representative of more than one Chapter or Lodge ; nor unless he is a member of a subordinate Chapter under that jurisdiction.

ARTICLE III.

Of the Subordinate Chapters and Lodges.

SECTION 1. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons throughout this jurisdiction shall have a Dispensation, as is provided in section 6th, of the first article, or section 4th, of the second article of this Constitution, or a Charter from the General Grand Chapter, or from some Grand Chapter under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter ; and no Chapter shall be deemed legal without such Dispensation or Charter ; and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden, between any Chapter or Lodge, or any member of either of them, and any Chapter, Lodge, or assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened, or holden, without such Charter, or any or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge. But nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any Chapter or Lodge which was established before the adoption of the Grand Royal Arch Constitution, at Hartford, on the 27th day of January, A. D., 1798.

SEC. 2. Whenever a Charter is issued for instituting a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, with a power in said Charter to open and

hold Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons, the High Priest, King, and Scribe, for the time being, of such Chapter, shall be the Master and Wardens in said Lodges, according to seniority.

SEC. 3. It is incumbent on the High Priest of every Chapter, as appertaining to his office, duty and dignity, to see that the By-Laws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and the regulations of the Grand Chapter, be duly observed ; that all his subordinate officers perform the duties of their respective stations faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to their companions ; that true and exact records be kept of all the proceedings of the Chapter, by the Secretary ; that the Treasurer keep and render exact and just accounts of all the moneys belonging to the Chapter ; that regular returns be made by the Secretary annually to the Grand Chapter, of all admission of candidates or members ; and that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter be regularly and punctually paid. The Charter of his Chapter is committed to his special care and charge. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence which in his judgment may require their meeting, and he is to fill the chair when present. It is likewise his duty, together with his King and Scribe, to attend the regular and special meetings of the Grand Chapter, either in person or by proxy.

SEC. 4. All Lodges of Mark Master Masons are bound to observe the preceding article, so far as it can be applied to the government of a Lodge.

SEC. 5. No person having been a member of a Chapter or Lodge shall be admitted a member of any other Chapter or Lodge, under this jurisdiction, until he shall have produced a certificate from the Chapter or Lodge to which he last belonged, that he was in regular standing, and as such at his own request, is dismissed and recommended.

SEC. 6. That any worthy companion, from without the jurisdiction of the United States, who may present himself as a Royal

Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of his having received that degree, that each and every Chapter under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter have liberty, and they are hereby authorized, to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, on such companions, (who have not heretofore received them,) to the end that they may be healed and thereby become regular Royal Arch Masons, free of charge.

SEC. 7. That the Subordinate Chapter so conferring said degrees, shall be exempt from paying any dues therefor.

ARTICLE IV.

Of Constituting New Chapters.

SECTION 1. When a Charter of Constitution is granted by the General Grand Chapter, or by any State Grand Chapter, for constituting a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Officers, respectively, shall appoint a day and hour for constituting the same, and installing the new officers. On the day and hour appointed, the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest, or the presiding officer for the time being, with his officers, meet in a convenient room, near to the place where the new Chapter is to be constituted. The officers of the new Chapter are to be examined by the Deputy Grand High Priest, or some companion appointed for that purpose ; after they are approved, they are to return to the Hall, and prepare for the reception of the Grand Chapter. When notice is given by the Grand Marshal that they are prepared, the Grand Chapter walks in procession to the Hall, when the Officers appointed for the new Chapter resign their seats to the Grand Officers, and take their several stations on the left ; the necessary cautions are then given from the chair, and the ceremony commences by performing an Anthem or Ode adapted to the occasion. The Officers and members of the new Chapter then form in front of the Grand High Priest.

The Deputy Grand High Priest then informs the Grand High Priest, that "A number of Companions, duly instructed in the sublime mysteries, being desirous of promoting the honor of the Art, have applied to the Grand Chapter for a Charter to constitute a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, which having obtained, they are now assembled for the purpose of being constituted, and having their Officers installed in due and ancient form."

The Grand High Priest then directs the Grand Secretary to read the Charter, which being done, he asks the members of the new Chapter if they still approve of the Officers elect ; this being signified accordingly, the Grand High Priest rises and says,

"By virtue of the high powers in me vested, I do form you, my worthy Companions, into a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons ; from henceforth you are authorized and empowered to open and hold a Lodge of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons ; and to do and perform all such things as thereunto may appertain ; conforming in all your doings to the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, and the general regulations of the State Grand Chapter ; and may the God of your Fathers be with you, guide and direct you in all your doings."

Grand Honors.

The Furniture, Jewels, Implements, Utensils, &c., belonging to the Chapter, (having previously been placed in due form, covered, in the centre,) are then uncovered, and the new Chapter is dedicated, in ancient manner and form, as is well described in the Most Excellent Master's degree. The Deputy Grand High Priest then presents the first Officer of the new Chapter to the Grand High Priest, saying,

"*Most Excellent Grand High Priest,*

"I present you my worthy Companion _____ to be installed High Priest of this new Chapter ; I find him to be skilful in the Royal Art, and attentive to the moral precepts of our Fore-

fathers, and therefore have no doubt but he will discharge the duties of his office with fidelity.”

“ *Excellent Companion,*

“ I feel much satisfaction in performing my duty on the present occasion, by installing you into the office of High Priest of this new Chapter. It is an office highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties annexed to it ; your reputed Masonic knowledge, however, precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties ; I shall therefore only observe, that by a frequent recurrence to the Constitution, and general regulations, and a constant practice of the several sublime Lectures and Charges, you will be best able to fulfil them ; and I am confident, that the companions who are chosen to preside with you, will give strength to your endeavors, and support your exertions. I shall now propose certain questions to you relative to the duties of your office, and to which I must request your unequivocal answer.

“ 1. Do you solemnly promise that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your brethren who have attained this sublime degree ?

2. That you will never suffer your Chapter to be opened unless there be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons ?

3. That you will never suffer either more or less than three brethren to be exalted in your Chapter at one and the same time ?

4. That you will not exalt any one to this degree, who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition ; or who has not made a considerable proficiency in the foregoing degrees ?

5. That you will promote the general good of our order, and on all proper occasions be ready to give and receive instructions, and particularly from the General and State Grand Officers ?

6. That to the utmost of your power you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave, in open Chapter, with

the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your Companions ?

7. That you will not acknowledge, or have intercourse with, any Chapter that does not work under a constitutional Charter or Dispensation ?

8. That you will not admit any visiter into your Chapter who has not been exalted in a Chapter legally constituted, without his being first formally healed ?

9. That you will observe and support such By-Laws as may be made by your Chapter, in conformity to the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, and the general regulations of the Grand Chapter ?

10. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the General and State Grand Officers, particularly relating to the several Lectures and Charges, and will resign the Chair to them, severally, when they may visit your Chapter ?

11. That you will support and observe the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, and the General Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter under whose authority you act ?

Do you submit to all these things, and do you promise to observe and practise them faithfully ?

These questions being answered in the affirmative, the companions all kneel in due form, and the Grand High Priest or Grand Chaplain, repeats the following, or some other suitable prayer :

Most Holy and Glorious Lord, God, the Great High Priest of Heaven and Earth,

We approach Thee with reverence, and implore thy blessing on the companion appointed to preside over this new assembly, and now prostrate before Thee ; fill his heart with thy fear, that his tongue and actions may pronounce thy glory. Make him steadfast in thy service ; grant him firmness of mind ; animate his heart, and strengthen his endeavors ; may he teach thy judgments and thy law ; and may the incense he shall put before thee, upon thine altar prove an acceptable sacrifice unto thee. Bless him, O

Lord, and bless the work of his hands. Accept us in mercy ; hear Thou from Heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive our transgressions.

“ Glory be to God the Father ; as it was in the beginning, &c.”

Response, “ So mote it be.”

All the companions, except High Priests and Past High Priests, are then desired to withdraw, while the new High Priest is solemnly bound to the performance of his duties ; and after the performance of other necessary ceremonies, not proper to be written, they are permitted to return.

The Grand High Priest then addresses the new High Priest as follows :

Excellent Companion,

“ In consequence of your cheerful acquiescence with the charges and regulations just recited, I now declare you duly installed and anointed High Priest of this new Chapter ; not doubting your determination to support the reputation and honor of our sublime Order. I now cheerfully deliver unto you the Charter under which you are to work ; and I doubt not you will govern with such good order and regularity, as will convince your companions that their partiality has not been improperly placed.”

The Grand High Priest then clothes and invests the new High Priest with the various implements and insignia of the Order, with suitable Charges to each of them.

The Grand High Priest then installs the several subordinate Officers in turn ; and points out to them the duties appertaining to their respective Offices ; after which he pronounces a suitable address to the new Chapter, and closes the ceremony, with the following benediction :

“ The Lord be with you all ; let brotherly love continue ; be not forgetful to entertain strangers. Now the God of Peace, our supreme High Priest, make you perfect to do his will.

“ Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, and good will to men. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, &c.”

SEC. 2. Whenever it shall be inconvenient for the General Grand Officers, or the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priests, respectively, to attend in person, to constitute a new Chapter, and instal the officers, they shall, severally, have power and authority to appoint some worthy High Priest, or Past High Priest, to perform the necessary ceremonies.

SEC. 3. The Officers of every Chapter and Lodge under this jurisdiction, before they enter upon the exercise of their respective Offices, and also the members of all such Chapters and Lodges, and every candidate upon his admission into the same, shall take the following obligation, viz : “ I, A. B., do promise and swear, that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America.”

SEC. 4. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular stated meeting of the General Grand Chapter, with the approbation of two-thirds of the voters present, and not otherwise.

I hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the General Grand Chapter to be hereunto affixed.

Dated at the city of Washington, this 26th day of September, 1850, and the year of the Order, 2384.

B. B. FRENCH,

L. S.

G. G. Secretary.

**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF
ROYAL ARCH MASONS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

The triennial session of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States, was held at the Masonic Hall, in the city of Lexington, in the State of Kentucky, on Tuesday, the 13th day of September, A. D. 1853.

PRESENT :

The M. E. Robert P. Dunlap,	-	-	G. G. H. PRIEST.
“ Willis Stewart,	-	-	G. G. KING.
“ Charles Gilman, as	-	-	G. G. SCRIBE.
“ Benj. B. French,	-	-	G. G. SECRETARY.
“ Edward A. Raymond,	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.
“ Rev. Wm. H. Forsyth, as	-	-	G. G. CHAPLAIN.
“ Nathan B. Haswell,	-	-	G. G. MARSHAL.
E. Companion D. D. Richardson, as	-	-	G. G. TYLER.

The General Grand Chapter was opened by the M. E. General Grand High Priest, and after prayer by the M. E. and Rev. General Grand Chaplain, the usual proclamation was made by the General Grand Marshal.

The General Grand High Priest then addressed the General Grand Chapter in some appropriate remarks, in which he alluded, in a most feeling and eloquent manner, to the death of M. E. Joseph K. Stapleton, Deputy General Grand High Priest.

The General Grand High Priest appointed a Committee on Credentials.

The General Grand Secretary made the following report, which was read and referred to a select committee.

General Grand Secretary's Report:

In compliance with the following resolution of the General Grand Chapter, adopted in 1841, viz :

“ *Resolved*, That the General Grand Secretary be directed to prepare and present, on the first day of each triennial session hereafter, a digest of the communications received by him requiring the action of this General Grand Chapter,” I have the honor to report as follows :

In accordance with the order of the General Grand Chapter of September 12, 1850, I issued a charter to Newark Chapter, No. 2, Newark, New Jersey.

On the 23d of November, I received from the Deputy General

Grand High Priest, M. E. Joseph K. Stapleton, a letter from Ira Merchant, High Priest of Newark Chapter, to him, stating the loss of the Charter of said Chapter, which letter was endorsed by Companion Stapleton, advising the issuing of a Dispensation enabling the Chapter to continue its work ; which Dispensation was issued by the General Grand High Priest.

As no notice has ever reached me that the Charter has been found, some action of the General Grand Chapter will be necessary at this session to enable said Chapter to proceed legally with its work. The letter of Companion Merchant accompanies this communication.

I received a letter from John L. Lewis, jr., Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of New York, dated July 7, 1853, stating an application of Hiram Chapter, No. 4, of New Jersey, then under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of New York, "praying to be acknowledged and taken under the special care and direction of the General Grand Chapter," which application the Grand Chapter of New York referred to the Grand Council, with power to act finally. The Grand Council granted permission to Hiram Chapter to transfer its allegiance to this General Grand Chapter, and to make their returns to it.

No communication has been received by me from Hiram Chapter, and its position is of such an anomalous character as to require some action of this Grand Body in relation to it.

In the same letter, Companion Lewis mentions to me, "as a matter of general interest," a custom of the Chapters in Canada, of exalting Master Masons from the jurisdiction of the United States, for little over one-third the sum charged in the United States, and he accompanies his letter with a copy of a letter from the Provincial Grand Master at Quebec on the subject. Companion Lewis's letter and the copy accompany this report.

On the 18th of July, 1851, I received from the officers of Ancient Chapter, No. 1, in the City of New York, a formal statement of what they deem their grievances, in consequence of the action of the Grand Chapter of New York, in relation to Orient

Chapter, in which they make an appeal to this General Grand Chapter. All the papers relating to this unfortunate difficulty are herewith submitted.

I have also received a memorial from Weston Royal Arch Chapter, No. 4, of Missouri, and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of that State, stating "that there appears confusion in our order by the introduction of various colors, inasmuch as Royal Arch Masons appear amongst us in black regalia, claiming the privilege as having the Council Degrees, which said degrees, if at all belonging to the Order, are subordinate," &c., and asking this General Grand Body to "designate the legitimate color of the Order."

This memorial bears date, July 18, 1853, and is herewith submitted.

It will be seen by reference to the published proceedings of the last triennial meeting of this General Grand Chapter, in the report of our Most Excellent Companion Charles Gilman, then General Grand Secretary, written at San Francisco, California, that our late Most Excellent Deputy General Grand High Priest, J. K. Stapleton, issued a dispensation, authorizing the establishing of San Francisco Royal Arch Chapter. And it will be remembered by many then present, that Companion Stapleton particularly requested that the charter to that Chapter might bear date prior to the election of officers, so that Companion Gilman could sign it as General Grand Secretary. The papers being all regular, and on file, I issued the charter on the 13th day of September, 1850, and sent it by mail to Companion Gilman.

On my return to Washington, upon preparing the journal of the General Grand Chapter for the press, I found no mention of any dispensation to "San Francisco Chapter," but did find that Companion Stapleton had reported a dispensation issued by him to "*El Dorado Chapter, California*," and, upon further examination, I found a dispensation issued by him to "*Friendship Chapter, El Dorado, Arkansas*," upon which the Committee on Dispensations recommended that a charter should issue upon cer-

tain conditions being complied with. They were complied with, and a charter was issued December 11, 1850.

There being no mention of San Francisco Chapter in the proceedings, but a charter having been issued by special order of the Deputy General Grand High Priest, I did all in my power to cure the defect of the record, by stating all the facts in a note appended to page 59 of the printed proceedings. There can be no question that the charter was properly issued ; but, in consequence of the confounding of the Arkansas Chapter with the California Chapter, the record was not perfected.

I have thought it proper to bring the matter before this General Grand Body, that if any further action is deemed necessary in the premises, it may take place.

I will mention, as one subject that has met with almost universal attention—that of the Royal and Select Master's degrees, and the Grand Chapter of Maryland, of which I have the honor to be Grand High Priest, has given special instructions to its representative or representatives in this General Grand Chapter, to urge some definite action here upon that subject.

The legitimate powers and duties of a Council of High Priests is another matter of importance which has been considerably discussed, and the discussion has arisen from the action of the Grand Chapter of Maryland upon that subject. It is also one which has been placed specially in charge of the representative of that Grand Chapter.

I have caused all the reports received from the several Grand Chapters for 1850, 1851, and 1852, to be bound in volumes, and they are here, and may be referred to by any of the Companions who may desire so to do.

Several of the State Grand Chapters, it is proper to say, have failed to furnish me with their printed reports.

All which is respectfully submitted,

B. B. FRENCH,
General Grand Secretary.

LEXINGTON, *Kentucky*, Sept. 13, 1853.

On motion of Companion Swigert,

Resolved, That all Royal Arch Masons in good standing be admitted as visitors during the present meeting.

The General Grand Chapter was then called off until half-past four o'clock, P. M.

TUESDAY, *Sept. 13—Afternoon.*

The General Grand Chapter was called to labor by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, at 4½ o'clock.

Companion Tucker, from the Committee on Credentials, made the following report, which was accepted :

The Committee on Credentials having examined all the documents presented to them, report the following Companions as entitled to seats, as members of the General Grand Chapter at the present meeting, viz. :

From Alabama.

A. P. Pfister, *proxy* for - - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

From Connecticut.

Cyrus Goodell, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

Asa Smith, *proxy* for - - - - D. G. H. PRIEST.

E. G. Storer, *proxy* for - - - - G. K.

David Clarke, - - - - G. SCRIBE.

W. H. Ellis, - - - - P. G. H. PRIEST.

From Illinois.

Levi Lusk, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

From Indiana:

Isaac Bartlett, - - - - G. H. PRIEST.

H. C. Lawrence, *proxy* for - - - - D. G. H. & G. S.

James Elliott, *proxy* for - - - - G. KING.

From Kentucky.

Philip Swigert, *proxy* for G. H. PRIEST & D. G. H. PRIEST.

Isaac Cunningham, *proxy* for - - - - G. KING.

J. L. Allen, *proxy* for - - - - G. SCRIBE.

From Maine.

A. B. Thompson,	-	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
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From Maryland.

Charles Gilman, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
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From Massachusetts.

Stephen Lovell,	-	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
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From Mississippi.

A. V. Rowe,	-	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
W. R. Lackey,	-	-	-	-	-	G. KING.

From Missouri.

Thornton Grimsley,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
J. Foster, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
A. O'Sullivan,	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
G. H. C. Melody, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Michigan.

M. Shoemaker,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
Ezra Platt,	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.

From New York.

J. L. Lewis,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
T. C. Edwards, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. KING.

From New Hampshire.

C. W. Moore, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
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From Ohio.

J. B. Brown,	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
B. F. Martin, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
W. B. Dodds, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
A. C. Davis, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.

From Rhode Island.

J. A. D. Joslin, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. H. PRIEST.
William Field, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. KING.
S. W. Robinson, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.

From South Carolina.

A. G. Mackey, -	-	-	-	-	D. G. H. PRIEST.
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From Texas.

James W. Hall, <i>proxy</i> for	-	-	-	-	G. SCRIBE.
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From Vermont.

P. C. 'Tucker, G. H. PRIEST, and *proxy* for D. G. H. PRIEST, and SCRIBE.

Companion French offered the following proposition of amendment to the General Grand Constitution, which was read, and laid on the table, viz :

Article I, section 3. Insert after the word Scribe, in the 5th line, the words "Past General Grand Secretaries and Treasurers."

Same article, section 4, strike out "And no General Grand Officer shall be allowed to take a seat in the General Grand Chapter as the representative of any State Grand Chapter."

Add to the same article, "And no Companion shall be admitted as 'a proxy' for any other Companion who is not a resident within the jurisdiction of the Chapter which he represents as such proxy." *Provided*, That this amendment shall not go into effect until the next meeting of this General Grand Chapter.

The General Grand Chapter was then called off until 8 o'clock A. M., to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, *September*, 14, 1853.

The General Grand Chapter met, and was called to labor by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest.

The Standing Committees were appointed.

The General Grand High Priest laid before the Grand Chapter the following letter from Simon Greenleaf, Esq., viz. :

CAMBRIDGE, *June 24, 1852.*

HON. R. P. DUNLAP, *General Grand High Priest of the
General Grand Chapter of the United States:*

DEAR SIR AND COMPANION :

You are already aware that during the war of the Revolution there was a Lodge of Free Masons in the main army, called Washington Lodge, of which my father, the late Captain Moses Greenleaf, of the eleventh Massachusetts regiment, was Master. I have often heard him mention the visits of the Commander-in-Chief to this Lodge, and the high gratification they afforded to the officers and members, especially as he came without ceremony, as a private brother. It has occurred to me that the *records* of this Lodge may still be in existence, and that if so, they ought to be recovered and deposited for safe-keeping in the archives of the Craft. Permit me, therefore, to invite your attention to this subject, as I know of no member of the Fraternity whose position affords equal facilities for the accomplishment of this desirable object.

Believe me, dear sir, with great regard, faithfully yours,

SIMON GREENLEAF.

Which being read, was referred to a committee, consisting of Companion French, of District of Columbia ; Companion Moore, of Massachusetts ; Companion Lewis, of New York.*

The General Grand King presented the petition of Companions J. W. Morris and others, residing in the State of New Jersey, recommended by the Grand Chapter of New York, praying for a dispensation to form a new Chapter at Eaton Town, in that State ; the reading of which being dispensed with, the same was referred to the Committee on Chapters and Dispensations.

The proposed amendments to the Constitution, submitted yesterday by Companion French, of the District of Columbia, and laid upon the table, were taken up, and referred.

* Companion Greenleaf died before any action by the committee could take place, and the matter dropped.

Companion Gilman, of Maryland, from the committee to which was referred the report of the General Grand Secretary, made the following report :

The committee to whom was referred the communication of the General Grand Secretary, ask leave to

REPORT :

That they recommend that so much of said report as has reference to Newark Chapter, No. 2, Newark, New Jersey, of Hiram Chapter, in the same State, and of San Francisco Chapter, California, be referred to the Standing Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters.

That so much thereof as has reference to the memorial from Weston Chapter, No. 4, Missouri, not being in the opinion of your committee, a subject-matter for the consideration of this body, be dismissed without further consideration.

That so much thereof as has reference to the reported customs in Canada, and the correspondence growing out of the same, be referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

That so much thereof as has reference to the appeal of Ancient Chapter, No. 1, New York, be referred to the Committee on Grievances.

That so much thereof as has reference to the Royal and Select Masters' Degrees, be referred to a Select Committee of Five.

And that so much thereof as has reference to Councils of High Priests, be referred to a Select Committee of Five High Priests, or Past High Priests. Which report was concurred in.

Comp. Lewis, of New York, submitted the following resolutions from the Grand Chapter of New York :

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter recommend the adoption by the General Grand Chapter of the resolution proposed by a committee of that body at its last session, (that of 1850,) on the subject of establishing a representative fund.

2. *Resolved*, That we do not believe that Chapters have a right to confer the degrees upon Master Masons who have lost an arm,

or who are under any disability either to receive the degrees in Masonry, impart them, or be recognized as a regularly made Companion.

3. *Resolved*, That Chapters have not exclusive jurisdiction over the Past Master's Degree ; and that when the same is conferred on Masters elect by a Past Master, according to ancient usage, it is not *unmasonic* and *clandestine*.

4. *Resolved*, That a High Priest may be installed, and enter upon the duties of his office before receiving the degree of High Priesthood.

5. *Resolved*, That the representatives to this Grand Chapter, to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, be, and they are hereby directed to present to that body, for consideration and definite action, at its meeting in September next, the several matters and resolutions contained in this report—requesting the said General Grand Chapter not to delay the settlement of the same any longer.

Which being read,

On motion, the same were referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

The Most Excellent General Grand King submitted a report of his doings since the last meeting ; which being read, was referred to the Committee on the Doings of the General Grand Officers. It is as follows :

REPORT.

The undersigned respectfully begs leave to report that, immediately after the close of the session of the General Grand Chapter in 1850, that he granted authority to the several chartered Chapters in Texas to form a Grand Chapter for that State. And in January, 1851, he granted authority to Far West Chapter, No. 1, at Fayetteville ; Union Chapter, No. 2, Little Rock ; and Friendship Chapter, No. 3, at El Dorado, to form a Grand Chapter for the State of Arkansas, and has been informed that Grand Chapters have been organized in those States.

In October, 1850, the undersigned enclosed to Companion

General Grand Treasurer the sum of \$36, being the amount which he received from Shawneetown Chapter, in the State of Illinois, for eighteen exaltations previous to the formation of a Grand Chapter for that State ; and it is the only money which he has received on account of this General Grand Chapter since September, 1850.

The undersigned tenders his acknowledgments to those officers who kindly furnished him with the proceedings of their respective Grand Chapters, a careful examination of which furnish evidence of general prosperity and peace throughout the wide-spread jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter. In those portions of it where anti-masonry a few years since seemed likely to have swept our time-honored Institution out of existence, those who have remained true and faithful have rekindled the fires upon their altars, and they burn brightly as of old. Thrice honored be those illustrious worthies who stood firm and unshaken in those days of trial and persecution.

WILLIS STEWART,

G. G. K. G. G. C. U. S.

Comp. Brown, of Ohio, submitted the following resolution, which was read, viz :

Resolved, That the four first officers of this General Grand Body be requested to cause the work of Royal Arch Masonry, as sanctioned by the General Grand Chapter at its last triennial meeting, to be exemplified during the present meeting.

Comp. Mackey, of South Carolina, proposed to add, “ And when exemplified, that the same be open for discussion ;” which amendment was disagreed to, and the resolution adopted.

Comp. Lewis, of New York, submitted the following resolution, which was read and adopted, viz :

“ *Resolved*, That the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence be respectfully requested to inquire and report, whether, in their opinion, a Grand High Priest possesses, and may exercise any powers or prerogatives, as such, by prescription, custom, or otherwise, except those which are expressly given him in the Constitutions,

General Regulations, or other written authority of the Grand Chapter, over which he presides, or of the General Grand Chapter.”

Companions General Grand Secretary and General Grand Treasurer, submitted their accounts, which were severally referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion of Companion Lovell, of Massachusetts, a Committee on Work was appointed, consisting of—

Companion Gould, of Georgia ; Companion Lovell, of Massachusetts ; Companion Mackey, of South Carolina ; Companion Gilman, of Maryland ; Companion Lewis, of New York ; Companion Brown, of Ohio ; Companion Bartlett, of Indiana ; Companion Clark, of Connecticut ; Companion Foster, of Missouri.

The General Grand Chapter was then called from labor until 2 o'clock, P. M.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1853—2 o'clock, P. M.

The General Grand Chapter was called to labor.

Companion Tucker, of Vermont, from the Committee on Credentials, made a further report,

That they have examined the credentials of Most Excellent William T. Gould, as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Georgia, and Philip T. Schley, as Deputy Grand High Priest, and Thomas Ward, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, and report them as entitled to seats in this General Grand Chapter.

Companion General Grand Secretary submitted documents from Ancient Chapter, No. 1, New York, and from Companion Jenkinson, a member of that Chapter ; which, on motion, were referred to the Committee on Grievances.

Companion Rowe, from Mississippi, presented resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, which were referred to the Committee on R. and S. Degrees.

Companion Storer, from Connecticut ; Companion Tucker, from Vermont ; Companion Gould, from Georgia ; Companion Lusk, of Illinois,

Severally presented resolutions adopted by their respective Grand

Chapters, which being read, were referred to the Committee on Unfinished Business.

Companion Gilman presented resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, which were read and referred to the committees to which they appropriately belong.

Companion Gilman presented certain resolutions of San Francisco Chapter, California, which being read, were referred to the Committee on Unfinished Business.

On motion of Companion Lewis, of New York, the committee to which was referred resolutions from the Grand Chapter of New York, this morning, was discharged from the first of said resolutions, and it was referred to the Committee on Unfinished Business.

Companion Mackey, from South Carolina, submitted the following resolution, which being read, was referred to the Committee on the Royal and Select Masters Degrees :

Whereas, the members of this General Grand Chapter have received the degrees of Mark, Past, and Most Excellent Master, and the Holy Royal Arch only, and in that order, in the several Chapters in which they were exalted, and have not, as Royal Arch Masons, been instructed in any other, and intermediate degrees : therefore,

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter will not sanction the conferring of any other than the above degrees in the Chapters working under its jurisdiction.

Companion Tucker, of Vermont, from the Committee on Credentials, made a further report, which being read, was concurred in, viz. :

The Committee on Credentials would ask leave to make a further report :

They have examined the credentials of Excellent Companion H. W. Heath, Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and of Excellent Companion Charles Kopperl, Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, and as proxy for Luther Goble, High Priest of Union Royal Arch Chapter of New

Jersey, and find them entitled to seats in this General Grand Chapter.

Companion General Grand Secretary presented the dispensation issued by the General Grand High Priest, in consequence of the loss of their Charter by Newark Chapter, which was referred to the Committee on Chapters and Dispensations.

Companion Lewis, of New York, submitted a communication from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada ; so much of which as relates to Royal Arch Masonry, (on motion of Companion Tucker, of Vermont,) was ordered to be printed, and is as follows :

QUEBEC, CANADA, *June 13, 1853.*

Your communication relating to Royal Arch matters, dated the 1st instant, I duly received, and would have replied to it before, but as the parties of whom you with such good reason complain are not within my jurisdiction, I delayed until I could transfer your letter to the P. G. Superintendent of Montreal, (*the Hon. William Badgley*,) now in this city, but busily occupied by Parliamentary duties. I saw him yesterday, and he at once declared that he would suspend the parties from their Masonic privileges. Have the goodness, therefore, to address any future information relating to the business directed to him *at Montreal*.

In the meantime you have *my authority* for proclaiming all Companions professing to hold Royal Arch Chapters in Lower, or Canada East as irregular, and their proceedings illegal, *such bodies being clandestine*, with the following exceptions, viz. :

Quebec.—St. John's R. A. Chapter, No. 214, reg. of England.

Montreal.—St. Paul's " No. 514, "

Victoria " No. 643, "

St. George's " No. 731, " "

Individually, some of the brethren on the frontier at Caldwell's Manor, &c., may have been exalted under charters that have expired *many years ago* ; but of this you will of course demand strict and undoubted proof, should any offer themselves as visitors.

As to Encampments, there *certainly is not at present*, nor do I think there ever has been, a *legally constituted one*, in Canada, east or west. You will therefore be justified in causing your Encampments to decline recognition of any so called Knights hailing from spurious bodies; and also of any companions of *recent exaltation*, unless they hail from the Chapters quoted.

English Royal Arch Chapters are governed by the following regulations as regards exaltations :

1. No restriction as to the number who may be exalted at one meeting.

2. Candidate must be duly proposed, approved, and ballotted for ; he shall not be exalted if more than two negatives.

3. Candidate shall not be exalted unless a Master Mason of twelve months standing, of which fact satisfactory proof shall be given.

4. No person can be exalted *under any pretence* for a less sum than *three guineas sterling*, say 16 to 20 dollars, according to By-Laws of Chapter.

5. Register fee, and for certificate, must be transmitted to Grand Chapter of England.

6. Chapters liable to erasure (after notice) for not meeting for two years.

Neglect of making returns.

Neglect in registering names of all Companions exalted and of joining members.

7. Returns to embrace name, age, profession, date of exaltation, No. of the *Lodge* candidates belong to, and fees.

Names &c., of joining members, and of their mother Chapter.

Same fees to be paid for foreign Companions joining as for newly exalted Companions.

The foregoing is a synopsis, but you will understand it.

In conclusion, I beg to thank you for the very kind and courteous letter addressed by you, and assure you of the great regret I

entertain on account of the invasion of your authority, and the un-masonic and inexcusable irregularities of which you so justly complain, and of my readiness at all times to co-operate with you for the purpose of still further cementing that cordial feeling you so fraternally urge.

In conveying this assurance, I *know* that I am at the same time making known to you the feelings and sentiments of Companion and Brother Badgely, who is a very old and experienced member of our most glorious Order.

Yours, very respectfully,

T. DOUGLASS HARRINGTON,

P. G. Sup't and P. G. M.

M. E. Comp. Hon. J. L. LEWIS, Jr.,

G. High Priest, &c., G. R. A. U., New York.

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest appointed the following Companions the Committee on Unfinished Business :

Companion Schley, of Georgia ; Storer, of Connecticut ; Heath, of Maryland ; Thompson, of Maine ; Grimsley, of Missouri.

On motion of Companion Kopperl,

Resolved, That the work in the several degrees, conferred in Chapters, be exemplified on Friday morning, at 9 o'clock.

And then the General Grand Chapter was called from labor until 3 o'clock, to-morrow evening.

THURSDAY, *September, 15, 1853.*

The General Grand Chapter was called to labor by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest.

Companion Tucker, from the Committee on Credentials, made a further report :

That Companion A. G. Hodges was entitled to a seat in this General Grand Chapter, as proxy for the Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, and that :

Companion T. D. Merrick, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas, was present.

On motion of Companion Raymond, a committee to designate the next place of meeting was appointed, consisting of Companions Raymond, Hubbard, Lusk and Rowe.

The General Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of officers.

The General Grand High Priest called Most Excellent Companion W. T. Gould, of Georgia, to the Chair, and Companions Moore, of Massachusetts, and Schley, of Georgia, were appointed tellers.

The General Grand Officers were severally ballotted for, and the result, as reported by the tellers, was as follows :

M. E. Robert P. Dunlap,	-	-	-	G. G. H. PRIEST.
“ Willis Stuart,	-	-	-	D. G. G. H. PRIEST.
“ Charles Gilman,	-	-	-	G. G. KING.
“ Abner V. Rowe,	-	-	-	G. G. SCRIBE.
“ B. B. French,	-	-	-	G. G. SECRETARY.
“ Edw'd A. Raymond,	-	-	-	G. G. TREASURER.

On motion of Companion Mackey, of South Carolina, the further election was postponed until the Committee on the Amendments of the Constitution should have time to report.

A committee was appointed to take into consideration the question “ What are the degrees referred to as the ‘ Constitutional Degrees,’ in the 9th section of article 1, in the General Grand Constitution ?” consisting of Companions Swigert, Kopperl, Joslin, Elliot, and Merrick.

And then the General Grand Chapter was called off until tomorrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

FRIDAY, *September 16, 1853.*

The General Grand Chapter was called to labor by the General Grand High Priest.

Companion Tucker, from the committee appointed at the last triennial meeting, to consider the resolution relative to maimed candidates, made a report, which was read, and is as follows :

To the General Grand Chapter of the United States, to be holden at Lexington, in the State of Kentucky, on the 13th day of September, A. D., 1853.

At the triennial communication of your Honorable Grand Body, holden at Boston, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the 10th day of September, A. D., 1850, the following resolution was introduced by Companion Tallman, of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maine, and referred to the undersigned, as a committee, to report thereon at the present meeting of your Honorable Body.

“*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed, to report at the next triennial meeting, whether any of the Chapter degrees may be conferred on persons maimed or otherwise imperfect in body.”

Your committee having attended to the business thus assigned them, now respectfully report :

That they have investigated the subject with such Masonic light and information as they have been able to command, and now present to this General Grand Body the reasoning which has proved satisfactory to themselves, and the results to which it has led them.

It appeared to your committee necessary to settle in their own minds at the outset, whether in relation to the subject they were considering the degrees which are arranged in the United States, under the control of the Royal Arch Branch of the Order, and those which remain subject to the government of the Blue or Masters Lodges, are to be understood as standing upon the same ground. They arrived at the conclusion that there was no good reason for making any distinction between them, in the application of any general rule which might be found, either by authority or policy, legitimately applicable to the subject. The Masonry of the Blue Lodges is the basis of that which follows it. Master Masonry is the basis on which Royal Arch Masonry is erected. It is its ancestor, or perhaps, masonically considered, it may be more rationally called its elder brother. What is required therefore by Blue Masonry, the jurisdiction which controls the first entrance to the Masonic Temple, seems naturally to furnish the rule

for the degrees which follow beyond it ; and your committee entertain the opinion, that if a sound and proper rule may be established in relation to the Blue Lodges, it will be found to be one which Royal Arch Masonry would have neither interest nor wish to disregard or subvert ; or in other words, that if such a rule can be established on sound Masonic principles, it should be recognized as one of equal force, and equally binding upon both branches of the Masonic family. Those two branches are perfectly harmonious on every other subject, and your committee doubt not that they should be so in this. General principles properly applicable to the one, have always been considered as adapted to both. If Blue Masonry has an ancient landmark, on this or any other subject, which it is a violation of Masonic principle to remove, Royal Arch Masonry would hardly take the responsibility of disturbing it. "Remove not the old landmarks which your fathers have set," was a part of the religion of the nation whence our rites were derived ; it is, at least, a portion of our own moral safety.

Your committee have naturally been led to the inquiry, whether the subject submitted to their consideration, is one which rests Masonically on constitutional law, or is one of those general matters which is open to the ordinary regulations of Masonic policy. If, upon investigation, it is found to fall under the former, then it is beyond the exercise of a general discretion, stands paramount to all questions of policy, and absolutely supersedes any consideration of it, in that view. If, however, it is found to fall under the latter description, it stands open for regulation on any state of existing circumstances, upon the judgment of those, who, in such a state of things, have the right to control it, for the best interests of the Order.

We have all been taught, and it is the teaching which comes to us from ancient days, that "it is not in the power of any man or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry." We have been taught also, that we are *only* to "submit to the awards and resolutions of our brethren, when conveyed, when they are consistent with the *Constitutions of the Order*;" and

further, that we are not even bound to conform to the edicts of the Grand Lodge itself, if they are "subversive of the principles and ground-work of Masonry."

Your committee then feel the full force of the appropriate inquiries, in pursuing this question. What is the "body of Masonry," the "Constitutions of the Order," the "principles and ground-work of Masonry;" and do they, or either of them contain any authority upon the subject now under investigation?

To approach the subject intelligently, it seems necessary to advert to a portion of our history.

The Masonic Order, after one of those eclipses in her prosperity to which all human institutions are subject, was revived in England at the meeting of four Lodges in London, in February, A. D. 1717. These were the only Lodges then existing in the south part of that Kingdom, and they then formed themselves into a Grand Lodge, for which they elected a Grand Master at the following festival of the anniversary of St. John the Baptist. When this Grand Lodge was formed, "the original constitutions were established as the basis of all future Masonic jurisdiction in the south of England, and the ancient landmarks, or the boundaries set up as checks to innovation, were carefully secured against the attacks of future invaders." It was then established also, "as an unerring rule, at every installation, public and private, for many years afterwards, to make the Grand Master, and Master and Wardens of every Lodge engage to support the ancient constitutions, to the observance of which, also, every Mason was bound at his initiation."

The next year George Payne was chosen Grand Master of this Grand Lodge. During his official term, he "earnestly desired that the brethren would bring to the Grand Lodge any old writings or records, concerning the fraternity, *to show the usages of ancient times*. In consequence of this invitation, several old copies of the Gothic constitutions were produced, arranged, and digested."

Your Committee deem it important to remark, as to this Grand Lodge, that it did not assume to do more than to preserve intact, the Masonic institution as it found it, as to all its peculiar practices, and the principles which had governed it from early times. It recognized the ancient Grand Lodge at the City of York, and considered itself bound by the ancient Masonic charges acknowledged as authority in that Grand Body. The old Grand Lodge at York, as is well known to all familiar with Masonic history, was established in June, A. D. 926, under the patronage of Edwin, brother to Athelstan, the then reigning monarch of England. Those Masonic charges did not originate at York, but were simply put into form there, the materials being derived from records of an older date. The historical account is in these words: "Prince Edwin summoned all the Masons in the realm to meet him in a congregation at York, in June, Anno Domini, 926, who came and composed a General or Grand Lodge, of which he was the Grand Master. And having brought with them all the old writings and records of the Craft extant, some in Greek, some in Latin, some in French, and other languages, from the contents thereof, that assembly framed the constitutions and charges of an *English* Lodge, made a law to preserve and observe the same, in all time coming, and ordained good pay for the working Masons."

In the new English Grand Lodge formed by the four Lodges at London, in 1717, we find the same course taken to collect the ancient charges and constitutions of the Order, as had been previously taken at York, in the year 926.

In 1721, the Duke of Montague was chosen Grand Master, of this English Grand Lodge. Soon after his election, he directed Doctor Desaguliers and James Anderson, A. M., to "revise, arrange, and digest the Gothic constitutions, old charges, and general regulations." At the communication of this Grand Lodge, on the festival of St. John the Evangelist, in that year, those brethren had performed the duty assigned them, and presented their labors for approval. A committee of fourteen learned brethren was then appointed to examine their manuscript, and report. At a com-

munication holden on the 25th of March, A.D. 1722, this committee reported, that they had "perused the manuscript, containing the history, charges, regulations, &c., of Masonry, and after some amendments, had approved thereof." The Grand Lodge ordered the whole to be prepared for the press and printed; and within two years (A. D., 1723,) the book of Constitutions appeared in print.

Here, then, we have our first printed book of constitutions, compiled with care by learned Masons, sanctioned by the authority of a Grand Lodge, from which it is our pride to have descended, and professing to place us in possession of the "history, charges, and regulations" of our Ancient Masonic Brotherhood.

Your committee are not aware of the existence of any book of general Masonic authority, or of any other authority, at other sources, carrying with it an equally clear and well-defined Masonic sanction.

If this book, then, contains a rule upon the subject under consideration, and if the constitutions and charges which it transmits to us, are of binding Masonic force, it appears to your committee that all Masons are bound to defer to its authority. It is the first printed collection of our laws; our highest and oldest printed statute book; it contains matter irrevocable by any Masonic power; *the embodiment of our unchangeable landmarks*. No modern authority ever possessed competent power to alter or vary them. If such a power were once acknowledged, the specific identity of Masonry would be gone forever.

It seems very clear to your committee, that what is meant to be expressed peculiarly by the "Ancient Constitutions of Masonry," is not the mere regulations of any Lodge or Grand Lodge, ancient or modern, whether contained in what have been sometimes called constitutions, or in general regulations or by-laws. All these have been of no higher authority than Masonic legislative enactments, amendable or alterable from time to time, keeping within that code to which we refer (not always understandingly, perhaps,) as containing our *ancient landmarks*. The vital "body

of Masonry " to which we thus refer, is evidently anterior, both as to time and binding power, to all merely Masonic legislation. It had its origin in our earliest days, and we are bound to preserve it inviolate for all time.

Your committee cannot better define what they understand by the term " ancient constitutions," than by adopting the definition given by Companion J. W. Mitchell, of Montgomery, Alabama. That Companion defines them to be : " Those immemorial laws which have been handed down from age to age, and from generation to generation, no one knowing whence they originated, and no one having the right to alter or change them, but all being equally bound by a fair and liberal interpretation of them." These, he considers, as our " ANCIENT LANDMARKS," which are " not only fundamental, but unalterable," and he understands them to be collected in that portion of Anderson's book which gives " THE OLD CHARGES OF THE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS." " These old charges," he informs us, " have never been altered or changed. They stand, in the Grand Lodge of England, at this day, clothed in the same language, without a word being stricken out or added to. No Grand Lodge in the world has attempted to alter or change the wording of this old code of laws ; and although they have been violated again and again, generally through ignorance, no Masonic body has ever republished a mangled copy of them, or in any way altered their meaning, except the illegal Grand Lodge of London, calling itself, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Masons, generally known as the Athol Grand Lodge." Of this so-called Athol Grand Lodge, Lawrence Dermott was Grand Secretary, and subsequently Deputy Grand Master, and published his Ahiman Rezon, (which professed to contain the ancient constitutions of the Order,) by its order or permission, in 1772. This book has met with better fortune in the United States than the constitutions of Anderson, having been several times reprinted, and adopted as a text book, by several State Grand Lodges. It is, however, in the opinion of your committee, never to be regarded

as Masonic authority when it is found conflicting with the constitutions of Anderson.

Your committee having thus attempted to ascertain what is the true source of Masonic authority, which embraces what is emphatically distinguished as our *ancient landmarks*, have proceeded to inquire whether, among those ancient landmarks, the particular subject submitted to them has a place, and if so, what are the provisions relating to it? In examining the authority which they deem paramount to all others, they find the following provision :

“No Master should take an apprentice unless he has sufficient employment for him, and unless he be a perfect youth, *having no maim or defect about his body that may render him incapable of learning the Art*, of serving his Master’s Lord, and of being made a Brother, and then a Fellow Craft, in due time.”

Your committee have not been able to obtain an original copy of Anderson. They feel confident, however, that the clause above cited is literally correct. It is precisely as it stands in the reprint in Companion Mitchell’s Masonic Signet, confirmed by a copy from the original copy of Anderson, in possession of Companion Moore, of Boston, and agrees verbatim with a copy of the “charges” in possession of your committee, published at Edinburgh, in 1761, during the Grand Mastership of David, Earl of Leven, over the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The provision does not describe a man wholly and entirely *perfect* as to physical qualities. It is plainly limited in its character. It supposes, upon its face, that a man may have imperfections of of body which do not amount to disqualification. If they are not such as to render him “incapable of learning the Art,” then, beyond all question, he is eligible to be made a brother.

Your committee, then, having treated the question as one resting upon constitutional paramount authority, and not upon mere regulation ; having investigated the authority which, in their opinion, should govern the decision upon it, and having satisfied themselves that the subject-matter is not a question of mere policy, but one which involves an “ancient landmark” of the Order, have reached the unavoidable conclusion, that *it is competent and*

Masonically lawful for Royal Arch Chapters, as well as Blue Lodges, to confer the respective degrees of Masonry, properly conferrable by each, upon all candidates whose defects of bodily qualifications are not such, as to prevent them from conforming literally to what the several degrees respectively requires of them. If their physical capacities enable them to do this they are admissible, and can comply with every requisition of the Order.

Your committee are perfectly aware that the Ahiman Rezon contains a different rule, and requires a candidate to be *perfect in every bodily qualification* ; but they have already said that they do not acknowledge that work as authority when it conflicts with the constitutions of Anderson.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

PHILIP C. TUCKER,
SCOTT J. TALLMAN,
WM. T. GOULD,

LEXINGTON, (KY.), Sept. 13, 1853.

Committee.

The report was then laid upon the table.

Companion Mackey moved that the exemplification of the work set for this time, as a specified order, be postponed to 7 o'clock this evening ; which was disagreed to.

The General Grand High Priest then announced as the order of the day the exemplification of the Royal Arch work.

Companion Tucker moved that the whole subject be indefinitely postponed ; which was decided in the negative.

Companion Lovell then proceeded to exemplify the work in the degrees of Mark, Past, and Most Excellent Masters, when the further exemplification of the work, for the present, was postponed.

Companion Lewis, of New York, from the Committee on the Royal and Select Masters degrees, made the following report :

To the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the United States :

The undersigned, a Special Committee, to whom was referred the subject of the Degrees of Royal and Select Master, commonly called the Council Degrees, respectfully report : That they have examined the several very able reports and resolutions which have

been made upon the subject of these Degrees in various State jurisdictions, and attentively considered the positions taken by them, and have availed themselves of the light and information which they shed upon the history, character, and value of them. The subject is one which has claimed a large share of the attention of the fraternity for many years, and loud calls are made upon this General Grand Body to definitely settle the various questions which have grown out of the discussion. We have regarded these demands as rightly and properly urged, and have aimed to arrive at such conclusions as are just as well as satisfactory ; and although we cannot flatter ourselves that we have entirely succeeded, yet, as a reflection of the views of Companions, we think it will meet the just expectations of the larger number, and give offence to none.

The important question is that of jurisdiction, and to that single point we have directed attention. We have not aimed to reconcile contending claims, as, from the conclusion to which we have arrived it is not necessary. We regret to state that past action and past legislation on the part of this Most Excellent Body has given rise to many misapprehensions, and induced the belief that the Royal and Select Masters' Degrees were within the pale of the jurisdiction of Royal Arch Masonry, and hence looking at this Body as the Common head, Grand Chapters and Subordinates of this Body have come to the conclusion that they were under their control where Councils did not exist. But when we come to trace the common source of title, we are unable to discover how this Body has or ever had any rightful jurisdiction over them ; and it must be borne in mind, that it is incumbent on this Body to prove title affirmatively and conclusively, and not to rely upon the weakness of the title of any other claimant. We think there will be found an utter failure of proof on this point ; and when we examine the General Grand Constitution, and find no allusion to these degrees, and on the contrary a distinct recognition of the four degrees conferred in Royal Arch Chapters, and those alone, and that Companion Royal Arch Masons are affiliated with us throughout the land, without reference to their possession of them, we are

irresistibly led to the conclusion that no governmental jurisdiction in Royal Arch Masonry has any control over them. And if this strong position needed any confirmation in the existing state of things in the Fraternity, we shall find that in those States where they are cultivated to any considerable extent, they are under the government of Councils where these degrees and no others are conferred, and there we are content to leave them.

The conclusions to which we have arrived will render it unnecessary for us to examine any of the other questions which have grown out of the discussions relative to these degrees ; for if we have no jurisdiction, we have no right to pass upon them, and we do not here assume to state who has jurisdiction, but only to state that, in our judgment, we have not. The subject has been examined so thoroughly and elaborately, and the features of it have been so fully canvassed by the whole Fraternity, that we have not deemed it expedient to recapitulate any of the various positions which have been taken, and to defend or deny them. We trust that this M. E. Body will concur with us in opinion that the demands of justice and the claims of expediency both require a settlement of the whole matter, and that it be hereafter excluded from the consideration of the R. A. Masons as such.

We subjoin the following resolutions, expressive of our conclusions, for the consideration of the G. G. Chapter :

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter, and the governing bodies of of Royal Arch Masonry, affiliated with, and holding jurisdiction under it, have no rightful jurisdiction or control over the Degrees of Royal and Select Master.

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter will hereafter entertain no question or matter growing out of the government or working of those Degrees while in their present position.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

JOHN L. LEWIS, Jr.,
EDWARD A. RAYMOND,
J. A. D. JOSLIN,
PHILIP T. SCHLEY,
AMAND P. PFISTER.

LEXINGTON, *September 16*, 1853.

The question was stated on agreeing to said Resolutions, when Companion Gilman, of Maryland, moved that they be laid upon the table ; which motion was disagreed to.

The resolutions were then considered and agreed to.

Companion Mackey, from the committee to which was referred the resolution of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, relative to the order of High Priesthood, made the following report :

The Committee on Councils of High Priests, to whom were referred the accompanying questions, propounded to this General Grand Chapter by the Grand Chapter of Maryland to wit :

“The legitimate duties and powers of a Council of High Priests, and whether it is proper that any High Priest should be installed and placed at the head of a Chapter before being duly anointed a High Priest, by a regular Council of High Priests?”

Respectfully report as follows :

The paragraph which becomes the subject-matter of this report, embraces two distinct questions—first, as to the duties and powers of a Council of High Priests, and secondly, as to the necessity of anointment into that order before the assumption of the duties and privileges of High Priest of a Chapter.

Your committee have met with no difficulty in responding to the former of these questions. The degree, or as it is more commonly called, the order of High Priesthood, includes a system of initiation above and beyond the degrees of the Royal Arch. A very large number of Royal Arch Masons, a numerous portion of the members of our State Grand Chapters, and many, even of the constituents of this exalted body, are not in possession of its mysteries.

With these facts before them, it is impossible that your committee can come to any other conclusion than that legislation on the subject of the order of High Priesthood, is beyond and out of the jurisdiction of your exalted body. The “legitimate duties and powers of a Council of High Priests” cannot, therefore, be defined by this body, in its collective capacity, but must be left to the decision of those who are in possession of the order. This General Grand

Chapter has no more authority to enter upon the investigation of this question, than it has to inquire into the "legitimate duties and powers" of a Council of Red Cross Knights.

In relation to the second question, "whether it is proper that any High Priest should be installed and placed at the head of a Chapter before being duly anointed a High Priest by a regular Council of High Priests," your committee reply that, in their opinion, the Order of High Priesthood is an *honorarium* or reward conferred by his companions of the Priesthood on the newly elected High Priest of a Chapter, and as such should be gratefully received by every one who has been chosen to preside over his Companions.

But to admit that the reception of such an *honorarium* or reward was essentially necessary to qualify a High Priest for the due discharge of the duties, to the performance of which he has been called by the voice of his Chapter, would be to take the control of the affairs of a Chapter out of the Chapter itself, where it has been rightly deposited by our constitutions, and place it in the hands of an extraneous and irresponsible body, who, as a self constituted council of High Priests, might, by refusing to confer the order on a candidate, presenting them the necessary credentials, be pronouncing an effective and remediless veto on the choice made by the members of a Chapter, of their presiding officer. An election held under these circumstances would be rather the nomination by the Chapter to some council of High Priests at the time existing only *in futuro*, of the Companion whom they desired for their presiding officer, and which nomination the said council, whenever it was called into temporary existence, might or might not approve and confirm.

With these views your committee recommend the following resolutions for adoption by your Most Excellent Body :

Resolved, That it is not within the province or the control of this General Grand Chapter, or of any State Grand Chapter to define the duties or powers of a Council of High Priests.

Resolved, That while in deference to the long established usages of Royal Arch Masonry in this country, it is recommended that every newly elected High Priest should, as soon as it is convenient, receive the order of High Priesthood ; his anointment as such is not necessary to his installation, or to the full and entire discharge of all his powers and duties as the Presiding officer of his Chapter.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

ALBERT G. MACKEY,
WILLIS STEWART,
WM. FIELD,
G. H. C. MELODY,
ISAAC CUNNINGHAM.

Which report and resolutions were laid upon the table.

And then the General Grand Chapter was called off until 7 o'clock this evening.

EVENING, 7 o'clock.

The General Grand Chapter was called to labor by the General Grand High Priest, and Companion Lovell proceeded to exemplify the work in the Royal Arch Degree, and finished it.

Companions Lackey and Robinson were appointed members of the Committee on Unfinished Business, in place of Companions Heath and Grimsley, who have had leave of absence.

On motion of Companion Pfister,

Resolved, That the Committee on the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter be instructed to take into consideration the subject of embodying in the same an article whereby the jurisdictions of the State Grand Chapters may be held inviolable.

And the General Grand Chapter was called off until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, *September 17*, 1853.

The General Grand Chapter was called to labor by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest.

Comp. Gould, from the Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters, made the following report, which was read and laid on the table :

The Committee on Dispensations and New Chapters beg leave to

REPORT.

1st. That they have examined the By-Laws and work of Sacramento Chapter, at Sacramento City, California, and Washington Chapter, at Muscatine, Iowa, and finding them in conformity to the General Grand Constitution, recommend that they receive Charters.

2d. Sonora Chapter, at Sonora, California, have sent up their work, but not their By-Laws. In consideration of their distance, the committee recommend that a Charter issue whenever they obtain a certificate from any one of the four principal Grand Officers approving their By-Laws.

3d. The Dispensation to Newark Chapter, New Jersey, has been referred to your committee. This Body having been merged in Union Chapter, no further action is required.

4th. Your committee have also examined the work and By-Laws of Barrett Chapter, at Rock Island, Illinois. The fourth Section of the third Article of the By-Laws assumes jurisdiction over the Royal and Select Degrees, and must be stricken out, so far as relates to that subject. With this qualification, your committee recommend the granting of a Charter.

5th. A number of Companions at St. Paul, Minnesota, have petitioned the General Grand King for a Dispensation, and paid the fees, but not in time for one to issue and be returned to this convocation. Your committee deem it inexpedient to issue Charters without the usual probation, and therefore recommend that the present Deputy General Grand High Priest, to whom the petition was addressed, be advised to issue a Dispensation.

6th. San Francisco Chapter, at San Francisco, California, has received a Charter since the last meeting of this Body, but there was some confusion or error in the proceeding. A Dispensation was regularly obtained, and the returns have been regularly made. Your committee have examined the work and By-Laws, and find

them correct, and they recommend that the present Charter be ratified and confirmed.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. T. GOULD,
STEPHEN LOVELL,
JOS. FOSTER,
CYRUS GOODELL,
W. R. LACKEY,
Committee.

Companion Stewart, from the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, made the following report, (Companion Stewart dissenting from a portion of the same,) which was read and laid on the table :

REPORT.

The undersigned, a majority of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, beg leave to submit the following resolutions as their report on the 2d, 3d, and 4th resolutions passed by the Grand Chapter of New York at their meeting in February, 1853, to be found on page 97 of their proceedings ; and the resolution of Companion J. L. Lewis in relation to the powers of the Officers of State Grand Chapters :

1st. *Resolved*, That it is masonically illegal for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, on a brother Master Mason who has lost a leg or an arm.

2d. *Resolved*, That it is legal and Masonic for the requisite numbers of Past Masters who have themselves been duly qualified to preside over a Lodge to confer the degree of Past Master, according to ancient usage, on the Master Elect of a Lodge.

3d. *Resolved*, That it is not indispensably necessary, though always desirable, that a High Priest Elect should have received the orders of High Priesthood to qualify him to preside over a Chapter, installation by a present or Past High Priest, duly authorized, being sufficient.

4th. *Resolved*, That the Officers of State Grand Chapters possess no powers, incidental or otherwise, except such as are expressly conferred by the Constitutions of State Grand Chapters, or of the General Grand Chapter, or by their express authority otherwise given.

W. B. DODDS,
 PHILIP C. TUCKER,
 E. G. STORER,
 THOS. C. EDWARDS.

The undersigned concurs in the 2d, 3d, and 4th of the foregoing resolutions ; dissents from the 1st, and begs leave to submit the following as a substitute therefor :

Resolved, That inasmuch as Masonry is speculative rather than operative, that it is Masonic and legal for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch, on a worthy Master Mason who has lost a leg or an arm, Chapters in all cases being the proper judges of the propriety of so doing.

WILLIS STEWART, *Chairman*.

Companion General Grand Secretary French submitted a letter received by him this morning from Companion Thomas H. Lewis, Most Excellent General Grand Scribe, which was read, and is as follows :

To the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest and other Officers and Members of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America :

M. E. and E. COMPANIONS :

In obedience to a resolution adopted at our last triennial convocation, held in Boston, requesting the four first Officers of this General Grand Chapter to take such measures as they may think best for diffusing, as extensively as may be, the knowledge of "the mode of work and lectures agreed upon in said convocation, to the several Chapters under this jurisdiction," I personally exemplified the work and lectures in the Grand Chapter of the State of

Louisiana, and several of her subordinates ; and in order to diffuse as extensively as possible such knowledge, I carefully instructed, in said work and lectures, Companions James R. Hartsock, Thomas J. Hawkins, and John C. Gordy, and commissioned and authorized them respectively to travel through the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and to instruct the Chapters and Companions of those States in said work and lectures.

This service has been performed by those worthy companions, as reported to me, in a satisfactory and efficient manner.

I have not been able to procure the services of competent companions to travel in any of the other Southern States, and my private relations in life have put it out of my power to do so in person.

I am pleased to hear of the general prosperity of our beloved Order throughout the length and breadth of our extensive and happy country, and trust that her light may continue to shine brighter and brighter to the end of time.

It is with the deepest regret that I find myself obliged to announce the impossibility of my personally participating in the deliberations of our approaching session at Lexington, Kentucky.

I pray you, my companions, be assured that nothing but imperious and paramount duty could deprive me of the pleasure of greeting you all in our sacred Temple, and that my prayers shall be daily offered up to the Supreme Grand High Priest of the Universe for your success in your noble mission, and that the doings of your approaching convocation may greatly promote the prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry, and the pure principles of brotherly love amongst the fraternity everywhere.

I trust the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States may long continue to diffuse light and truth throughout our beloved country, and be and remain a strong bond of union, holding us together as one in feeling as we are in interest ; and, should a kind Providence prolong my days, I hope at the next meeting to greet many with whom it has been my happiness to sit in council.
"Till then, farewell.

THOS. H. LEWIS,

OPELOUSAS, LA., Aug. 28, 1853. *General Grand Scribe.*

It was then referred to the Committee on the Doings of the General Grand Officers.

Companion Schley was appointed a member of the Committee on Grievances, in place of Companion Smith, who has leave of absence.

Companion Gould, from the Committee on Work, made a verbal report.

Companion Mackey, from the same committee, submitted the following as the views of the minority of said committee :

The minority of the committee, to whom was referred the exemplification of the work adopted by the General Grand Chapter at its session in 1850, and exemplified at this session, respectfully report :

That, in their opinion, the said work, more especially so far as respects the Royal Arch Degree, is so contrary to, and subversive of, the land marks of Free Masonry, that they cannot consistently with their obligations as Royal Arch Masons, recommend the same for adoption.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALBERT G. MACKEY,
Delegate from South Carolina.

JOS. FOSTER,
Delegate from Missouri.

The General Grand Chapter proceeded to the consideration of the said report, the question being on agreeing to the report submitted by Companion Gould.

Companion Mackey moved that his report be substituted for the report of the majority, and called for a division of the question, so as to take it first on striking out ; and it was so divided.

1st. Shall the report of the majority be stricken out ?

And the question being taken by ayes and noes, resulted as follows, viz. :

Ayes.—Willis Stewart, General Grand King,	1 vote.
Grand Chapter of Connecticut, -	4 votes.
“ Ohio, - -	2

<i>Ayes.</i> —G. Chapter of Kentucky,	-	-	-	4
“ South Carolina,	-	-	-	4
“ Georgia,	-	-	-	2
“ Mississippi,	-	-	-	4
“ Missouri,	-	-	-	4
“ Michigan,	-	-	-	4
“ Arkansas,	-	-	-	4
“ Texas,	-	-	-	4
Union Chapter, Newark, N. J.,	-	-	-	1
<hr/>				
Ayes,	-	-	-	38

<i>Noes.</i> —R. P. Dunlap, G. G. H. P.,	-	-	-	1
B. B. French, G. G. Secretary,	-	-	-	1
N. B. Haswell, G. G. Marshal,	-	-	-	1
E. S. Barnum, P. G. G. Scribe,	-	-	-	1
G. Chapter of Maine,	-	-	-	4
“ New Hampshire,	-	-	-	4
“ Vermont,	-	-	-	4
“ Massachusetts,	-	-	-	4
“ Rhode Island,	-	-	-	4
“ New York,	-	-	-	2
“ Ohio,	-	-	-	2
“ Georgia,	-	-	-	2
“ Alabama,	-	-	-	4
“ Indiana,	-	-	-	4
“ Illinois,	-	-	-	4
<hr/>				
Noes,	-	-	-	42

So the General Grand Chapter refused to strike out the report.

Companion Raymond, General Grand Treasurer, was, at his own request, excused from voting.

The question recurred on agreeing to the report of the committee.

On motion of Companion Gould the whole subject was laid on the table by an unanimous vote.

Companion Hubbard, from the Committee on Finance, made the following report :

The Committee on Finance ask leave to report :

That they have attended to all the business that came before them, and find, from an examination of the General Grand Treasurer's account as rendered, that the same is correct.

This account commences September 9, 1850, and closes September 1, 1853. The balance in his hands at the date first above named, was - - - - - \$4,850 26
Am't from all sources received up to Sep. 1, 1853, 1,578 88

Making a total of - - - - - 6,433 14
From which deduct payments of all kinds per vouchers
up to September 1, 1853, - - - - - 774 18

Leaving as balance in the Treas. on that day - \$5,658 96

Your committee approve of the practice in this department of having a specific time as the close of its fiscal period, and, by resolution appended, submit the principle in form for the action of this Honorable Body. Adopting the principle, all receipts and expenditures, after such fiscal period, will of course be found in the new or next account current.

Your committee have also examined the account current of your General Grand Secretary, accompanying this report, and find the same correct. From this it will be found that the amount received by him up to August 30, 1853, is \$572 52, the whole of which has been (including last payment under date of September 13, 1853) paid to the General Grand Treasurer in part, and the residue paid for necessary expenses of the office, for all which satisfactory vouchers appear.

No accounts have been submitted to your committee from the General Grand High Priest, King, or Scribe.

Looking to the policy adopted by your Honorable Body at its last session, and highly approving the same, of causing your surplus fund to be made productive by investment at interest, your committee would recommend a continuance of the same. As your main, if not only, dependence for the receipt of funds into your Treasury is from the granting of dispensations to, and the collecting of dues from Subordinate Chapters, and not from State Grand Chapters and their Subordinates : and, inasmuch as these individual Subordinates are rapidly becoming incorporated into State Grand Chapters, it is evident that the time may come, and that at no distant period, when the present sources of supply for sustaining the expenses of your Honorable Body will cease. It may, therefore, be deemed provident, at the present time, to adopt measures for husbanding your present and future means, that by judicious investments an income may be obtained, sufficient to sustain your General Grand Chapter, by thus meeting all of its current and legitimate expenses. For this purpose your committee have matured and herewith submit for your consideration Resolution No. 2, accompanying this report.

Without any account or claim being laid before your committee, in form, yet their attention has been called to the fact, that no provision has heretofore been made for the clerical and official services of our Most Excellent Charles Gilman, Past Grand Secretary, as they were rendered from the time of your session in 1847, until his leaving his Baltimore residence for California—a period of about eighteen months, and embracing the most laborious part of the General Grand Secretary's services for that term of time ending in September, 1850.

Your committee have examined the report of his services thus rendered, which may be found at pages 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, of the proceedings of your last session, and by comparing the same with former allowances for services of the kind, are well satisfied that

he is justly entitled to be paid the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, and accordingly submit, for that purpose and for your consideration, Resolution No. 3.

Under the present practice, not saying system, of collecting, receiving, and paying over the moneys of this General Grand Chapter, a departure from the usage of Masonry exists—an unnecessary number of accounting officers are made to act, and it is not made the duty of any one to collect together the various accounts, state them in one, and charge your General Grand Treasurer in a general account current. Consequently, and if left as it is, the whole receipts and expenditures must be sought for from six different sources, and the whole stated in the new, by a committee of your body ; or have no such general accounts current, with suitable checks upon the Secretary or Treasury departments, but take as for granted the statement of your General Grand Treasurer, of the amounts he has received.

Your committee are of the opinion that all moneys, and from whatever source, belonging to this General Grand Body, should be paid directly to the General Grand Secretary ; and of all such moneys he should be the sole collector and receiver ; and that he should, and with as little delay as possible, pay the same over, as from time to time received, to the General Grand Treasurer. Your committee also entertain the opinion, that the General Grand Secretary should use none of the funds so received, for even current and necessary expenses of his office, but check upon the General Grand Treasurer for the same, (under the authority of your Honorable Body,) with the bill for the same attached. To the end of thus having a full account of all the funds whatever that have been received by the General Grand Treasurer upon the General Grand Secretary's books ; and as connected with these fiscal forms and duties, your committee would recommend that the General Grand Secretary be instructed to render an account to the General Grand Treasurer, as often as once a year, of all his receipts and payments over of moneys during that, then, preceding year. The foregoing

views of your committee are embodied in Resolutions No. 4, 5, and 6, which accompany this report.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

W. B. HUBBARD, *Chairman*,
E. S. BARNUM,
J. M. HALL,
A. B. THOMPSON,
AMAND P. PFISTER.

Said report was accompanied by the following resolutions, which were considered and agreed to, viz :

1. *Resolved*, That hereafter the General Grand Treasurer's account current shall triennially be made up to the first day of the month in which the General Grand Chapter is held.

2. *Resolved*, That the General Grand Treasurer is authorized and requested to invest, from time to time, all such moneys of this General Grand Chapter as may come into his hands subject to prompt payment, on call, or at thirty days notice, as in his judgment and discretion will be safely for the interest of this General Grand Chapter : *Provided*, That in making any such investments he shall not reduce the cash funds in the Treasury below the sum of \$500 ; and that of his doings under this resolution, he make a full report at the next Triennial meeting of this Body.

3. *Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid to Companion Charles Gilman the sum of \$125, in full for his past services as General Grand Secretary, and not heretofore provided for.

4. *Resolved*, That all dispensation fees, dues, or moneys of any kind accruing or becoming payable to the General Grand Chapter, shall be collected and received by the General Grand Secretary, and an account of the same, from what source arising, and from whom received, shall be kept by him.

5. *Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the General Grand Secretary, forthwith, or as soon as it is reasonably in his power, to pay over to the General Grand Treasurer all moneys whatsoever

which he may from time to time receive, as contemplated in the foregoing Resolution No. 4, taking proper vouchers therefor, with power and authority from time to time, and for the reasonable and necessary current expenses of his office to check, with the proper voucher attached thereto, upon the General Grand Treasurer therefor.

6. *Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the General Grand Secretary, annually, to make out and state in his book, an account current with the General Grand Treasurer, and send one copy of the same to the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, and another to the General Grand Treasurer; and also, on the first day of each Triennial General Grand Session, he shall make out and submit to the General Grand Chapter a general account current of all moneys by him received and paid over during the preceding three years.

On motion of Companion Mackey,

The General Grand Chapter proceeded to consider the report and resolutions submitted by him in reference to Councils of High Priests, when the first of the said resolutions was agreed to.

The second of said resolutions being under consideration,

Companion Brown moved to amend the same by striking out all after the word "resolved," and inserting, "that while in deference to the General Grand Royal Arch Constitutions, and the long established usages of Royal Arch Masonry, it is considered necessary that every newly elected High Priest should, as soon as it is convenient, receive the Order of High Priesthood, his anointment is not indispensably necessary to the full and entire discharge of all his powers and duties as the presiding officer of his Chapter."

Companion French moved to amend the amendment by striking out all thereof after the word "that," and inserting "it is not necessary that a High Priest elect should receive the Order of High Priesthood before he can be installed to preside over the Chapter by which he has been elected."

Which amendment was disagreed to.

The question recurred on the amendment proposed by Companion Brown, and being put the same was disagreed to.

The question then recurred on the 2d resolution reported by the committee, and being put the same was agreed to.

And then the General Grand Chapter was called off until this evening at 7 o'clock.

SATURDAY EVENING, *Sept. 17, 7 o'clock.*

The General Grand Chapter was called to labor by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

On motion of Comp. Stewart the report made by him this morning, from the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence was taken up.

This first resolution reported by said Committee was read and laid upon the table.

The second resolution was then read; Comp. Mackey moved to amend it by striking out all after the word resolved, and inserting,

“That this body does not claim jurisdiction over the degree of Past Master, when about to be conferred on a Master elect of a symbolic Lodge,” which amendment was considered and agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, was then agreed to.

The third resolution was then read, and, the subject having already been acted on, it was indefinitely postponed.

The fourth resolution was then read, considered, and agreed to.

The General Grand Chapter then proceeded to the special order, which was set for this evening, being the report of the Committee appointed at the last triennial meeting on maimed candidates.

Comp. Tucker offered the following resolution in relation to this subject, viz :

Resolved, That it is competent and masonically lawful for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the respective degrees of Masonry, within their jurisdiction, upon all candidates whose defects of bodily qualifications are not such as to prevent them from conform-

ing literally to what such degrees respectively required, if in other respects qualified.

Comp. Mackey moved to amend the same by striking out all after the word resolved, and inserting,

“ That no Royal Arch Chapter should take a candidate unless he be a perfect man, having no maim or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art.”

Comp. Gilman moved to amend the amendment, by striking out all after the word “ that,” and inserting, “ it is incompetent for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the respective degrees of Masonry upon candidates whose physical defects are such as to prevent them from conforming literally to all the requirements of those degrees;” which amendment was agreed to.

The amendment as amended was then agreed to, and the resolution as amended was agreed to.

On motion of Comp. Gould, the report from the Committee on Dispensations and new Chapters, this day made, was taken up, and the 1st, 2d, 3d, 5th, and 6th recommendations of said Committee were adopted.

The 4th recommendation, relative to Barrett Chapter, Illinois, was read, when Companion Lusk offered the following amendment.

Strike out all of said recommendation and insert,

“ The Dispensation of Barrett Chapter, Rock Island, having been renewed subsequently to the organization of the Grand Chapter of Illinois, your committee recommend the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Dispensation be referred to the Grand Chapter of Illinois, and that the fees of ten dollars for Charter and eight dollars exaltation fees paid to this Grand Chapter, be refunded to Barrett Chapter;” which amendment was rejected.

The question was then taken on agreeing to said 4th recommendation, and was decided in the affirmative.

So the whole report, as made, was agreed to.

Comp. Lewis, from the Committee on Returns, made the following report :

To the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the United States :

The Committee on Returns have examined the various documents submitted to them from the several Chapters under our immediate jurisdiction, and respectfully report ;

That they have found them correct, except in the instances specially noted, but in very few cases have they found them complete. The regulations require that there should be an annual return of officers and members, and of the work done, together with payment of dues, and also an abstract of their proceedings and their By-Laws ; and that upon the expiration of their dispensation it should be returned. But two or three of the Subordinates have fully complied with these regulations, and we should have deemed it our duty to have recommended some regulation on the subject, were it not that the time is rapidly drawing near when there will be none left to whom it can apply.

The Grand Chapters of Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Arkansas, have alone notified the General Grand Chapter of the election of officers.

We find the names of officers sometimes incorrectly given, such as Recorder, for Secretary ; and the rank of Captain of the Host, in repeated instances, is placed next before the Tyler, and Secretary before Treasurer. We find also, in the abstract of proceedings such improper phrases as " adjournment," &c.

One Chapter has not paid its dues, but as we think there is an explanation to the apparent default, we forbear to give the name.

These matters were all that we have deemed worthy of observation, and we have not thought it necessary to enter minutely into detail. The committee beg to be pardoned for the remark, that we cannot conceive it necessary for the accomplishment of any good object that there should be such a Committee as that on Returns. Either the Committee on Charters and Dispensations must wait for this committee to report before they can act understandingly, and thus delay the business of the whole body, or they must do, what they in fact have done at this Communication, anticipate its

action, examine for themselves, and act upon their own information, so acquired, thus rendering our labors useless.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN L. LEWIS, Jr.
WILLIAM FIELD,
ISAAC BARTLETT,
A. O'SULLIVAN,

LEXINGTON, *September, 17, 1853.*

Said report was accompanied by the following resolution, which was read, and agreed to :

Resolved, That so much of the standing resolution of this General Grand Chapter as provides for a Committee on Returns, be and hereby is rescinded."

On motion of Companion Kopperl,

Resolved, That the thanks of this General Grand Chapter are due, and are hereby tendered to Most Excellent Companion Lovell, of Massachusetts, for the important services rendered by his able exemplification of the work in the several Chapter degrees before this body.

On motion of Companion Gould,

Resolved, That the dues received from Barrett Chapter, at Rock Island, Illinois, which have accrued since the formation of the Grand Chapter of that State, be paid over to that Grand Chapter.

And then the General Grand Chapter was called off until Monday next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

MONDAY, *September 19, 1853.*

The General Grand Chapter was called to labor by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest.

Companion Mackey, from the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution, made the following report, which was read :

The Committee on Amendments to the Constitution respectfully report the following amendments, and recommend their adoption by the General Grand Chapter :

1st Amendment.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. Add : "The General Grand Chapter, at any regular meeting, may change the time for the next succeeding

meeting ; and if, in the opinion of a majority of the General Grand Council, there shall be danger to life or health from sickness or other local cause by any meeting being held at the time appointed, they may change the time of the particular meeting to some subsequent time ; and in the event of such change being made, they shall immediately notify the General Grand Secretary thereof, who shall forthwith notify the other officers and members in such manner as he may deem best calculated to effect the desired object."

2d Amendment.

SEC. 3. Transpose the offices, General Grand Secretary and General Grand Treasurer, and strike out the words "General Grand Chaplain and General Grand Marshal," and in their stead insert "General Grand Captain of the Host, *General Grand Prin. Sojourner*, General Grand Royal Arch Captain, and three General Grand Masters of the Vails." Also after the words "Past General Grand Scribes," insert "Past General Grand Treasurers, Past General Grand Secretaries." Also strike out all after the words "General Grand Chapter," in the last line but one.

3d Amendment.

SEC. 5. Add "special" between "a" and "meeting," in the second line.

4th Amendment.

SEC. 7. In the second paragraph, strike out all after the words "twenty dollars."

5th Amendment.

SEC. 9. Strike out the whole article, and instead thereof insert, "The only degrees recognized by this General Grand Chapter, to be conferred in Chapters under its jurisdiction are Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, and no Royal Arch Mason who shall have regularly received said degrees, shall be excluded from the rights of such by reason of his not being in possession of any other, so called, degrees."

6th Amendment.

SEC. 10. Strike out all after the words "decline in favor of," and insert "a Past High Priest."

7th Amendment.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. Make the offices in the State Grand Chapters conform to those of the General Grand Chapter. After the words "respectively preside," strike out all down to the words "and to establish," and insert "and of the Past Grand High Priests, Past Deputy Grand High Priests, Past Grand Kings, and Past Grand Scribes, of the said Grand Chapters, and the said Grand Chapters shall have power and authority to elect or appoint such other officers for the management of their secular affairs."

8th Amendment.

SEC. 4. In the second proviso, strike out the word "Treasurer," and insert "Secretary."

9th Amendment.

SEC. 6. Strike out the words "into the Treasury," and insert "over to the Grand Secretary."

10th Amendment.

SEC. 10. Strike out the words "or Lodge."

11th Amendment.

ARTICLE III.

In the title of the article strike out the words "or Lodges."

12th Amendment.

SEC. 1. Strike out the word "Lodge," and "or Lodge," wherever they occur.

13th Amendment.

SEC. 4. Strike out the whole Article.

14th Amendment.

SEC. 5. Strike out the words "or Lodge" wherever found.

15th Amendment.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1. Page 86, strike out lines 20 to 26 inclusive, commencing with the words "all the Companions," and ending with the words "as follows," and insert, "The new High Priest is then solemnly bound to the performance of his duties, and the Grand High Priest addresses him as follows."

In line 30, same page, strike out the words "and anointed."

16th Amendment.

SEC. 3. Strike out the words "and Lodges."

SEC. 4. Strike out all after the words "this Constitution," and insert "shall not be altered or amended unless such alteration or amendment be proposed in writing at one regular meeting of the General Grand Chapter, published among the minutes of the proceedings, and at the next regular meeting receive the approval of two-thirds of the members then present."

All of which is respectfully submitted,

ALBERT G. MACKEY,
CHARLES GILMAN.

The first amendment was considered.

Comp. Tucker moved to amend the same by so changing it as to read "and if in the opinion of the General Grand High Priest, or in case of his death or absence of the senior General Grand Officer;" which amendment was agreed to.

The said amendment as amended was then agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

The 2d amendment was then considered.

The amendment was divided, and was taken,

1st, on striking out the General Grand Chaplain, which was not agreed to.

2d, on striking out the General Grand Marshal, which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

3d, on inserting General Grand Captain of the Host, which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

4th, on inserting General Grand Prin. Sojourner, which was disagreed to.

5th, on inserting General Grand Royal Arch Captain, which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

6th, on making Past General Grand Treasurer and General Grand Secretaries, Past Grand Officers.

Comp. Lewis moved to amend the amendment so as to make all the Past General Grand Officers members, which was disagreed to.

The question recurred on the 6th division of the 2d amendment, which was rejected.

Comp. Schley moved to strike out all Past General Grand Officers of the General Grand Chapter, which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

7th, on making Past Grand High Priests of State Grand Chapters voters in General Grand Chapter.

Comp. Schley moved to amend the amendment by striking out the entire clause of the Constitution relating to Past Grand High Priests of State Grand Chapters, which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefore.

Comp. Kopperl offered the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to by a vote of two-thirds, viz :

Resolved, That the General Grand Chaplain be appointed by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest at the commencement of each convocation of the General Grand Chapter.

3d. Amendment of committee to insert "special" in Art. 1st, Sec. 5th, which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

4th. To strike out of 7th Sec., Art. 1st, all after the words "twenty dollars," which was considered and agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

5th. Strike out Sec. 9th, of Art. 1st, and insert what is recommended by the committee.

A division of the question was called for, and it was divided so as to take the question first, "Shall the Section be stricken out?" and decided in the affirmative, two-thirds voting therefor.

Second, shall the proposition of the committee be inserted ; and the same was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

6th. Amendment of committee. Sec. 10, Art. 1. Amend so as to make it obligatory that a Past High Priest only can preside in the absence of the regular officers ; which was considered and agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

7th. Art. 2, Sec. 1. Make the officers of a State Grand Chapter the same as those of the General Grand Chapter ; which was rejected.

Companion Schley moved that the word " Marshal " be stricken out of said section, and the words " Grand Captain of the Host, and Grand Royal Arch Captain," be inserted.

A division of the question was called for, and it was divided, and the question was taken, 1st, on striking out, and it was carried in the affirmative, two-thirds voting therefor ; 2d, on inserting, which was carried in the affirmative, two-thirds voting therefor. The other amendments proposed by the committee to said section were negatived.

8th. Sec. 4, Art. 2. Strike out Treasurer and insert Secretary, which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

9th. Sec. 6, same Art. Strike out " into the Treasury," and insert " over to the Grand Secretary," which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

10th. Third line, Sec. 10. Strike out " or Lodge," which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

11th. Art. 3. Strike out of heading " and Lodges," which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

12th. Sec. 1, Art. 3. Strike out " Lodge " and " or Lodge " wherever those words occur, which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

13th. Sec. 4, Art. 3. Strike out the entire section, which was adopted, two-thirds voting therefor.

14. Sec. 5, Art. 3. Strike out "or Lodges" wherever found which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

15. Amendment, Art. 4, Sec. 1. The committee propose to strike out lines 20 to 26 inclusive, &c., and in line 30 the words "and anointed," but before any question was taken on this amendment,

On motion of Companion Gould the entire section was stricken out, two-thirds voting therefor.

16th. Sec. 3, of the same Art. Strike out the words "and Lodge," and the words "and Lodges," which was agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor.

17th. Sec. 4, of same Art. Strike out all after the words "this constitution," and insert what the committee propose, which was decided in the affirmative, by a vote of two-thirds.

The amendments proposed by the committee, having been disposed of,

Companion Pfister offered the following amendment to the General Grand Constitution, which was considered and agreed to, two-thirds voting therefor, viz :

It shall not be deemed regular for any Chapter to confer the degrees of the Chapter upon any person, whose fixed place of abode is within any State in which there is a Chapter regularly established, except by the consent of the Chapter nearest the place of residence of said applicant.

Comp. O'Sullivan moved to amend the 2d Sec., Art. 1, by striking out the words "and shall have authority to suspend the proceedings of such Grand Chapter," which was rejected.

The question was then taken on adopting this constitution as amended, and it was unanimously adopted, to take effect immediately after the close of this session.

Companion Gilman from the Committee on the doings of the General Grand Officers, made the following report, which was read and agreed to, viz :

The Committee on the Doings of the General Grand Officers, ask leave to report,

That they have attended to the duties assigned them, and have the satisfaction to report, that the various and sometimes delicate duties devolving upon those M. E. Companions, appear to have been faithfully, promptly, and efficiently fulfilled. The subject matter by them reported to the General Grand Chapter, having been already referred to the appropriate committees, your committee have nothing further to recommend for action.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

C. W. MOORE,
for the Committee.

Companion French presented his second account current with the General Grand Chapter, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The General Grand Chapter was then called off until 4 o'clock this afternoon.

AFTERNOON, 4 o'clock.

The General Grand Chapter was called to labor by the General Grand High Priest.

On motion of Companion Swigert, from the committee to which was referred the question, "what are the constitutional degrees?" That committee was discharged from the further consideration thereof, the constitution having been so amended as to preclude the necessity of any report thereon.

The General Grand Chapter then proceeded to the further election of General Grand Officers, Companions Gould and Tucker having been appointed tellers, and completed the same by the election of

M. E. Nathan B. Haswell, of Vermont,

G. G. C. H.

" G. H. C. Melody, of Missouri,

G. G. R. A. C.

Companion Mackey, from the Committee on Grievances, made the following report :

The Committee on Grievances, to whom was referred the appeal of Ancient Chapter, No. 1, from the action of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York, in relation to the said Chapter, respectfully report, as follows :

The right of a Subordinate Chapter to appeal to this General Grand Chapter, from the decisions of its Grand Chapter, is a right for the declaration of which your committee have in vain searched in the constitutions of this General Grand Chapter—it is a right, for the admission of which, they can find no precedent in the proceedings of this body—and the acknowledgment of which on the present occasion would be furnishing a precedent, that your committee believe would be productive of manifold important and almost fatal evils in the legislation of Royal Arch Masonry. The phrase in the second section of the first article of the Constitution, which grants to the General Grand Chapter the power “to settle all difficulties which may arise,” seems to your committee to refer to difficulties which may arise between State Grand Chapters, and not to those occurring between these bodies and their subordinates. And your committee are led to this conclusion, because in a preceding part of the same section, it is asserted that this General G. Body “shall have and maintain jurisdiction over all State Grand Chapters, and over Chapters in those States, Districts, Republics, or Territories which recognize this jurisdiction, and *where there is no Grand Chapter regularly established agreeably to the provisions of this constitution*—thus clearly confining the jurisdiction over Subordinate Chapters to those existing in States where there are Grand Chapters. Hence, *e converso*, where there is a Grand Chapter in a State, this Grand Body can have no jurisdiction over its Subordinates except so far as acquired through the Grand Chapter. But if there be no immediate jurisdiction, there can be no immediate right of appeal, for the right of appeal includes of necessity the fact of jurisdiction. Believing, therefore, that Ancient Chapter, No. 1, has no right to appeal from the action of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York to this body, your committee have not felt themselves authorized to inquire into the merits of

the questions pending between the Grand Chapter of New York and one of its subordinates, and ask therefore to be discharged from the further consideration of this subject.

But in the course of the investigations which have led to this conclusion, your committee have had brought to their view, certain proceedings of the Grand Chapter of New York in relation to other matters which they think imperatively require your consideration and judication, and which proceedings they will now briefly detail.

In the year 1850, and for some years previously, there was, and had been existing in the State of New York, a body of spurious Royal Arch Masons, calling itself "Orient Chapter," and which was working without any legal warrant, but deriving its authority from a clandestine Mason in that State, named Henry C. Atwood. The members consisted of persons acknowledging allegiance to the body styled the "St. John's Grand Lodge," which had been pronounced clandestine by all the Lodges of the world. In 1851, a Masonic union was effected between the St. John's Grand Lodge, and the regular constituted Grand Lodge of New York, and all its adherents were declared to be Master Masons in good standing. In the same year, the Grand Chapter of New York received a memorial from Orient Chapter, the clandestine body, to which reference has already been made, praying for a warrant of constitution. The memorial was referred to a committee, who reported a resolution declaring that the Royal Arch Masons who were, or had been, officers or members of Orient Chapter, should be "fully and entirely restored and healed, collectively and individually," and entitled to all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masons, and that their past officers should be entitled to rank as such in the fraternity. A warrant of constitution was at the same time ordered to be issued to said Chapter. It is but justice to the representative of New York, now in this General Grand Chapter, and who was the chairman of the committee that recommended these resolutions, to say, that as reported by him, they contemplated the issuing of the warrant "on the usual terms on which warrants are issued to

new Chapters," which of course must have included the payment of the fee and the recommendation of the nearest Chapter. But this part of the report was subsequently modified, and on the motion of another companion, and a warrant was ordered to be issued free of all charge. The warrant was accordingly issued, and Orient Chapter is now recognized on the registry of New York, as a regular Chapter in good standing.

The irregularities of which the Grand Chapter of New York has been guilty, appear then to be these :

It has by a mere resolution, collectively and individually, healed, (or we should rather say declared to be healed, since we deny this summary mode of healing,) a body of clandestinely made Masons ; recognized all their acts and doings when clandestine, as regular, and granted them a warrant of constitution free of all charge, and without the recommendation of the nearest Chapter, in direct contravention of the Constitutions of this General Grand Body, and all the principles of Royal Arch Masonry. We will not comment on these irregularities, because they must appear evident to every companion who shall hear a statement of the facts above detailed. But we cannot refrain from expressing the hope, that the Grand Chapter of New York will respect the opinions and feelings of its companions throughout the United States, who must necessarily censure these proceedings, and atone for the error which it inadvertently committed, by magnanimous acknowledgment, and by prompt redress.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALBERT G. MACKEY,
EDWARD A. RAYMOND,
E. G. STORER,
PHILIP T. SCHLEY.

Which report was accompanied by the following resolutions,

Resolved, That the appeal of Ancient Chapter, No. 1, be dismissed.

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of New York be directed to retrace its steps in the case of Orient Chapter.

The first of said resolutions was read, considered and agreed to.

The General Grand Chapter proceeded to the consideration of the second resolution, and the question on agreeing to the same, being taken by ayes and noes, resulted as follows: Ayes 24, Nays, 33.

Ayes—G. G. Treasurer, E. A. Raymond,	-	-	1
G. G. Marshal, N. B. Haswell,	-	-	1
Grand Chapter of Vermont,	-	-	4
“ Kentucky,	-	-	4
“ South Carolina,	-	-	4
“ Georgia,	-	-	2
“ Mississippi,	-	-	4
“ Missouri,	-	-	4
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Noes—G. G. H. P., Robert P. Dunlap,	-	-	1
G. G. King, Willis Stewart,	-	-	1
G. G. Secretary, B. B. French,	-	-	1
Grand Chapter of Maine,	-	-	4
“ Massachusetts,	-	-	4
“ Connecticut,	-	-	4
“ Ohio,	-	-	4
“ Georgia,	-	-	2
“ Indiana,	-	-	4
“ Illinois,	-	-	4
“ Michigan,	-	-	4
			<hr/> 33

So the said resolution was rejected.

Companion Lewis moved that the said report be recommitted, with instructions to strike therefrom all that censures the Grand Chapter of New York, which was decided in the negative.

The report was then recommitted, without instructions.

Companion Mackey, from said committee, forthwith reported back the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to, viz :

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of New York cause all the Royal Arch Masons made illegally by Orient Chapter, to be healed and that they issue a new warrant to said Chapter, with the recommendation of the nearest Chapter, and the payment of the usual fee.

And then the General Grand Chapter was called off until tomorrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

TUESDAY, *Sept.* 20, 1853.

The General Grand Chapter met, and was called to labor by the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest.

Prayer by the Rev. General Grand Chaplain *pro tem.*

Companion Schley, from the Committee on Unfinished Business, made the following report :

The Committee upon Unfinished Business, report—

That the action of this General Grand Body upon several of the subjects, rightfully within their sphere, leaves to them now, but two, upon which to express their views, viz : “ A representative fund, and the permanent location of this General Grand Body. Concurring in the opinion as to a representative fund of several State Grand Chapters, as also the committee of this body at its last convocation, your committee believe a representative fund necessary ; and to make its burthens and benefits equal upon all, they deem a per capita tax of ten cents upon each member under the jurisdiction of the respective State Grand and Subordinate Chapters, the fairest, most equal, and efficient mode of raising said fund. They believe that the money arising from said fund, should be transmitted every year in which this General Grand Body sits, at least one month before the day of its convening, by each and every Secretary of the State Grand and Subordinate Chapters to the General Grand Secretary, and become an integral part of the General Grand Treasury. Your committee are of opinion, that

the General Grand Officers, and representatives of Grand and Subordinate Chapters in this body, should be paid out of the General Grand Treasury, their, and each of their, actual, necessary travelling and other expenses, to, at, and returning home from the sessions of this General Grand Body. The accounts to be rendered by each officer and delegate, on the faith of a Royal Arch Mason, to, and be paid by, the General Grand Treasurer, a receipt for which, shall be a sufficient voucher to that officer.

PHILIP T. SCHLEY,
S. W. ROBINSON,
A. B. THOMPSON,
E. G. STORER,
W. R. LACKEY.

Which report was accompanied by the following resolutions:

Resolved, That a representative fund be, and is hereby established, by this General Grand Chapter, to be raised by the several State Grand Chapters, and subordinate Chapters under their jurisdiction, by a *per capita* tax of ten cents, upon each and every member, returned to and under the jurisdiction of said Chapters; and that said tax be remitted to the General Grand Secretary, by each and every Secretary of said Chapters, at least one month before the day of the triennial meeting of this General Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That said tax, when so received by the General Grand Secretary, shall be paid over by him to the General Grand Treasurer, and become an integral part of the General Grand Treasury.

Resolved, That the General Grand Officers, and representatives of Grand Chapters and subordinate ones, in this General Grand Chapter, shall be paid their, and each of their actual, necessary, expenses incurred, in coming to, remaining at, and returning home, from the triennial meetings of this General Grand Chapter. Caculating their travelling expenses as by the nearest practical public travelling route, coming and returning.

Resolved, That the account of said expenses made out by the officer or delegate, on the faith of a Royal Arch Mason, and receipted by him, shall be a sufficient voucher to the General Grand Treasurer of such payment.

The first of said resolutions was amended by striking out "ten" and inserting "twenty."

The question then recurred on the adoption of said resolutions, and was decided in the negative, ayes—16, noes—46.

The yeas and nays being ordered, were as follows :

Ayes.—G. G. High Priest,	-	-	-	-	-	1
G. G. Secretary,	-	-	-	-	-	1
G. G. Marshal,	-	-	-	-	-	1
P. G. G. Scribe,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grand Chapter of Maine,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Maryland,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Georgia,	-	-	-	-	-	4
San Francisco Chapter,	-	-	-	-	-	1
						<hr/> 16
Nays—G. G. King,	-	-	-	-	-	1
G. G. Treasurer,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grand Chapter of New Hampshire,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Rhode Island,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Connecticut,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Kentucky,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ South Carolina,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Alabama,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Indiana,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Illinois,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Mississippi,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Missouri,	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ Michigan,	-	-	-	-	-	4
						<hr/> 46

Companion Schley, of Georgia, from the committee appointed to consider the permanent location of the sessions of the General Grand Chapter, reported that

The permanent location of the sessions of this General Grand Body, is a subject so fraught with difficulties, that at this late period of this session your committee deem any action upon it, would be quite unsatisfactory to many of the State Grand Chapters, and therefore recommend that the same be indefinitely postponed.

Which report was agreed to, and the subject indefinitely postponed.

Companion Raymond from the committee to which was referred the subject of the next place of meeting, made the following report, viz :

The committee to whom was referred the next place of meeting for this General Grand Chapter, respectfully recommend that the next triennial communication of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, be held in the City of Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, in September, 1856.

Which report was considered and agreed to.

Companion Hubbard from the Committee on Finance made the following report, which was read, considered, and agreed to, viz :

The Committee on Finance ask leave to make this their additional report—

That since their last report there has been referred to them, the account of the General Grand Secretary, commencing on the 13th instant and ending 14th, inclusive as follows :

Total amount of monies received, - - -	\$115 00
Amount paid for stationery, - - -	\$0 77
Amount paid C. W. Moore for advertising, -	2 00
Amount paid Masonic Union, - - -	1 50
Amount paid G. G. Treasurer, - - -	110 73
	—————\$115 00

For all which correct vouchers accompany said statement, which account accompanies this report.

Your Committee have also had under consideration the subject matter of allowances to the General Grand Officers, of suitable sums to cover expenses attending the session, and have agreed to recommend for adoption the following resolution :

Resolved, That there be allowed and paid to

R. P. Dunlap, M. E. G. G. H. Priest, and inclusive of	
postage accounts, - - - - -	\$125 00
Willis Stewart, M. E. G. G. King, - - - - -	25 00
B. B. French, M. E. G. G. Secretary, inclusive of	
half expenses for this session - - - - -	250 00
E. A. Raymond, M. E. G. G. Treasurer, - - - - -	50 00
N. B. Haswell, M. E. G. G. Marshal, - - - - -	100 00
Wm. H. Forsyth, M. E. G. G. Prelate, <i>pro tem</i> , - - - - -	15 00
P. Swigert, assistant to G. G. Secretary, - - - - -	15 00
Administrator of estate of M. E. Jos. K. Stapleton,	
late D. G. G. H. P., for back expenses, - - - - -	7 50
D. D. Richardson, E. G. G. Guard, - - - - -	20 00
———, Assistant Marshal, - - - - -	10 00

All of which is respectfully submitted, W. B. HUBBARD,
E. S. BARNUM,
A. B. THOMPSON,
A. P. PFISTER,

On motion of Companion Cunningham,

Resolved, 'That in addition to the allowance already made to our Most Excellent General Grand Prelate, *pro tem*., Forsyth, the sum of ten dollars be made, so that the whole sum allowed him be twenty-five dollars.

Companion Kopperl offered the following resolution :

Whereas, this General Grand Chapter have been unable to adopt any particular mode of work on the several Chapter Degrees for the purpose of promoting uniformity of work in all the Chapters under this jurisdiction, therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Chapters under this jurisdiction be severally requested to appoint a delegate to meet in convention, on the 2d Monday of May, 1855, in the City of Baltimore, for the purpose of revising and agreeing upon a mode of work, to be recommended to each of the Grand Chapters under this jurisdiction, to be by them considered, and if approved, adopted as the work of their respective Chapters, and by that means obtain a uniform mode of work in all the Chapters under this jurisdiction; and that said Grand Chapters express their sentiments on this subject at the next triennial communication of this General Grand Chapter, through their representatives.

Which resolution was laid upon the table.

On motion, the General Grand Chapter then proceeded to the installation of the General Grand Officers elect.

The Most Excellent and Hon. Robert P. Dunlap was installed by the Most Excellent Willis Stewart, Deputy General Grand High Priest.

The other officers were then installed by the General Grand High Priest, and proclamation was made by the General Grand Captain of the Host according to ancient form.

On motion of Companion Gilman,

Resolved, That the General Grand Treasurer be authorized and directed to procure suitable collars and jewels for those of the General Grand Officers, for whom none have been procured.

Companion Gilman, from the committee to which was referred so much of the address of the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, as alludes to the death of our late Most Excellent Companion Joseph K. Stapleton, made the following report, accompanied by a resolution, which was read, considered, and unanimously agreed to, viz. :

The committee, to whom was referred the subject of the death of our late M. E. Companion, Joseph K. Stapleton, beg leave to report the following resolution :

Resolved, That this General Grand Body has learnt, with deep regret, that our Most Excellent Companion, Joseph K. Stapleton,

late Deputy General Grand High Priest, has, since our last communication, departed this life. In this dispensation of Providence our Order has lost one of its firmest friends, most zealous supporters, and most tried and faithful servants.

Resolved, That this Body sincerely sympathize with the family of our departed Companion, in this affliction, and that an engrossed copy of these resolutions, under the seal of this Body, be transmitted to them by the General Grand Secretary.

CHARLES GILMAN,
CHARLES W. MOORE,
WM. T. GOULD,
A. V. ROWE,

Committee.

On motion of Companion Mackey, Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this General Grand Chapter be returned to Most Excellent Companion, R. P. Dunlap, General Grand High Priest, for the ability and urbanity with which he has discharged the duties of a presiding officer, during the present session of this Body.

The General Grand High Priest then rose and addressed the General Grand Chapter in a most eloquent and feeling manner.

On motion of Companion O'Sullivan, the Free Masons farewell was then sung by the Companions present, and the General Grand Chapter of the United States was closed in harmony, to assemble again at Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, on the second Tuesday of September, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

Attest,

B. B. FRENCH,
G. G. Secretary.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL
ARCH MASONS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

*As amended at the Triennial Meeting, begun and held in the City of Lexington,
State of Kentucky, on Tuesday, September 13, 1853, and of the Order, 2387.*

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

Of the General Grand Chapter.

SECTION 1. There shall be a General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America, which shall be holden triennially, on the second Tuesday in September, at such place as shall from time to time be designated for that purpose, and at which time the General Grand Officers shall be elected by ballot, and installed, except the General Grand Chaplain, who shall be appointed by the General Grand High Priest at the commencement of each convocation of the General Grand Chapter.

The General Grand Chapter, at any regular meeting, may change the time for the next succeeding meeting; and if, in the opinion of the General Grand High Priest, or, in case of his death or absence, of the senior General Grand officer, there shall be danger to life or health, from sickness, or other local cause, by any meeting being held at the time appointed, he may change the time of the particular meeting to some subsequent time. And, in the event of such change being made, he shall immediately notify the General Grand Secretary thereof, who shall forthwith notify the other officers and members in such manner as he may deem best calculated to effect the desired object.

SEC. 2. The General Grand Chapter shall have and maintain jurisdiction over all State Grand Chapters, and over Chapters in those States, Districts, Republics, or Territories, which recognize this jurisdiction, and where there is no Grand Chapter regularly established, agreeably to the provisions of this Constitution ; and shall have authority to suspend the proceedings of such State Grand Chapters, and such Chapters in States where there is no Grand Chapter, as may knowingly violate any of the provisions of this Constitution ; to settle all difficulties which may arise, and to give such advice and instruction as may seem most conducive to their peace, and to the advancement of the great cause of benevolence and virtue.

SEC. 3. The officers of the General Grand Chapter shall consist of a General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, General Grand Scribe, General Grand Treasurer, General Grand Secretary, General Grand Chaplain, General Grand Captain of the Host, and General Grand Royal Arch Captain, these together with the first four officers of every State Grand Chapter under this jurisdiction, or the proxies of the first four General Grand Officers, and of the first four officers of each State Grand Chapter aforesaid, shall compose the General Grand Chapter : *Provided*, That any Chapter under this jurisdiction, in any State, District, or Territory, where there is no Grand Chapter duly established, shall have a right to appear by its first three officers, or any one or two of them ; which officers shall collectively have one vote.

SEC. 4. On all questions to be decided by the General Grand Chapter, each State Grand Chapter shall be entitled to four votes by its representative or representatives.

The General Grand Officers when present, shall each have one vote. And no General Grand Officer shall be allowed to take a seat in the General Grand Chapter, as the representative of any State Grand Chapter—nor shall any member of the General Grand Chapter be permitted to vote as proxy, while the person

giving the proxy is present—nor shall any person be admitted into the General Grand Chapter as the representative of more than one State Grand Chapter at one and the same time.

SEC. 5. The General Grand High Priest and Deputy General Grand High Priest, shall have authority to call a special meeting of the General Grand Chapter, whenever they may consider it expedient or necessary; and it shall be their duty so to do, when properly requested by a majority of the State Grand Chapters, of which four months notice shall be given of the time and place of meeting.

SEC. 6. The General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, shall severally have power and authority to grant Dispensations, for a limited length of time, for new Royal Arch Chapters and Lodges of the appendant Orders, in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, in which there is not a Grand Chapter regularly established, when, in their opinion, the good of the Craft may require the same; which term of time shall in no case extend beyond the time of the next Triennial Meeting of the General Grand Chapter; but no new Chapter shall be established in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, where there is a Chapter, within a reasonable distance, under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, without the approbation of the Chapter nearest to the place where said new Chapter is proposed to be located; and in all cases of such Dispensation, the officer who may grant the same, shall immediately notify the General Grand Secretary thereof, and make report of the same at the next Triennial Meeting of this General Grand Chapter, when the General Grand Chapter may grant the said Chapter a Charter.

SEC. 7. The fees for instituting a new Royal Arch Chapter with subordinate degrees, shall be ninety dollars, and no more; and no credit shall be given for Dispensations or Charters, or for conferring the degrees, in any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction. And every Chapter holden by Dispensation or Charter under this jurisdiction, shall pay into the treasury of the General Grand Chapter, the sum of two dollars for each Companion therein exalted, until

such time as a Grand Chapter shall be regularly established in the State, Country, Republic, or Territory in which such subordinate Chapter is located. The Secretary shall be paid by the petitioners ten dollars for his services in furnishing the Charter.

The fees in the several States for conferring the several degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, shall not be less than twenty dollars.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, to improve and perfect themselves in the sublime Arts, and work of Mark Masters, Past Masters, Most Excellent Masters, and Royal Arch Masons; to make themselves Masters of the several Masonic Lectures, and ancient charges, to consult with each other, and with the Grand, and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the several State Grand Chapters aforesaid, for the purpose of adopting measures suitable and proper for diffusing a knowledge of the said Lectures and Charges. And the better to accomplish this laudable object, the aforesaid officers are hereby severally authorized and empowered to visit and preside in any Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Lodge of Most Excellent Master, Mark, and Past Master Masons throughout the said States, and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the Fraternity may require; always adhering to the ancient landmarks of the Order.

SEC. 9. The only degrees recognized by this General Grand Chapter, to be conferred in Chapters under its jurisdiction, are Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason. And no Royal Arch Mason who shall have regularly received said degrees, shall be excluded from the rights of such, by reason of his not being in possession of any other, so called, degrees.

SEC. 10. In all cases of the absence of an officer from any body of Masons, instituted or holden by virtue of this Constitution, the officer next in rank shall occupy his place: unless through courtesy, or for other reasons he should decline in favor of a Past High Priest.

SEC. 11. In every Chapter and Lodge under this jurisdiction, all questions, (except the admission of members or candidates, which shall require an unanimous ballot,) shall be considered and determined in such way and manner, as such Chapters and Lodges, may, all circumstances considered, find most conducive to their harmony and permanent prosperity : *Provided*, They do not in any case interfere with, or infringe on the regulations of the General Grand Chapter.

SEC. 12. The General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter shall have and keep a seal, which shall be affixed to all his communications.

SEC. 13. Should any casualty, at any time hereafter, prevent the triennial election of officers, the several officers shall retain their respective offices until successors are duly elected and qualified.

ARTICLE II.

Of State Grand Chapters.

SECTION 1. The State Grand Chapters shall severally consist of a Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chaplain, Grand Captain of the Host ; and likewise, of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the time being, of the several Chapters over which they shall respectively preside, and of the Past Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings, and Scribes, of the said Grand Chapters ; and the said Grand Chapters shall have full power and authority to elect such other officers, and to establish such rules and regulations, as they shall, from time to time, consider necessary and proper : *Provided*, such regulations do not in any way interfere with the provisions of this Constitution.

SEC. 2. The State Grand Chapters shall severally be holden once in every year, and oftener if they may consider it expedient or necessary, at such time and place as they shall respectively direct ; and, at their annual meetings, the constitutional officers shall be elected, or appointed in such manner as shall be provided

for by their rules and regulations, and installed into their respective offices ; and the Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priests, respectively, for the time being, may call special meetings, to be holden at such times and places as they may think proper.

SEC. 3. The several State Grand Chapters shall have the sole government and superintendence of the several Royal Arch Chapters, and Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons, within their respective jurisdictions, to assign their limits, and to settle the controversies that may happen between them ; and shall have power, under their respective seals and the signs manual of their respective Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings, and Scribes, attested by their respective Grand Secretaries, to constitute new Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, within their respective jurisdictions ; but their jurisdictions shall in no case be construed to extend beyond the limits of the State, except by consent of the General Grand Chapter.

SEC. 4. The Grand, and Deputy Grand High Priests, severally, shall have the power and authority, whenever they shall deem it expedient, during the recess of the Grand Chapter of which they are officers, to grant letters of Dispensation, under their respective hands and private seals, to a competent number of petitioners, possessing the qualifications required by the 7th Section of the 2d Article of this Constitution, empowering them to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for a certain specified term of time : *Provided*, That the said term of time shall not extend beyond the next meeting of the Grand Chapter of the State in which such Dispensation shall be granted : *And provided further*, That the same fees as are required by this Constitution for Charters, shall be first deposited in the hands of the Grand Secretary. And in all cases of such Dispensation, the officers who may grant the same, shall make report thereof at the next stated meeting of the Grand Chapter of his jurisdiction, when the said Grand Chapter may either continue or recall the said Dispensation, or may grant the petitioners a Charter of Constitution. And in case such Charter shall be granted, the fees first deposited shall be credited in pay-

ment for the same ; but if a Charter should not be granted, nor the Dispensation continued, the said fees shall be refunded to the petitioners, excepting only such part thereof as shall have been actually expended by means of their application.

SEC. 5. No Dispensation or Charter shall be granted for instituting Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, or Mark Masters, independent of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

SEC. 6. The Grand Chapters shall have power, severally, to require from the several Chapters under their respective jurisdictions, such reasonable proportion of sums received by them for the exaltation or advancement of candidates, and such certain annual sums from their respective members, as by their ordinances or regulations shall be appointed ; all which said sums or dues shall be made good and paid annually by the said Chapters, respectively, over to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter under which they hold their authority, on or before the first day of the respective annual meetings of the several Grand Chapters.

SEC. 7. No Dispensation or Charter for the institution of a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons shall be granted, except upon the petition of nine regular Royal Arch Masons ; which petition shall be accompanied with a certificate from the Chapter nearest to the place where the new Chapter is intended to be opened, vouching for the moral character and Masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending that a Dispensation or Charter be granted them.

SEC. 8. The Grand Secretaries of the State Grand Chapters shall, severally, make an annual communication to each other, and also to the Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, containing a list of Grand Officers, and all such other matters as may be deemed necessary for the mutual benefit and information of the said Grand Chapters. And the said Grand Secretaries shall also regularly transmit to the Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, a copy of all their By-Laws and regulations ; and also a copy of their proceedings, annually, to each of the officers of the General Grand Chapter ; and the State Grand Chapters shall see that their Secretaries faithfully and punctually perform this duty.

SEC. 9. Whenever there shall have been three Chapters regularly instituted and consecrated in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, by virtue of authority derived from this Constitution, a Grand Chapter shall be established, so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate : *Provided*, that the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter be first obtained. And said Grand Chapters, by their regular officers, shall assemble in some suitable place, elect their officers, and make such rules and regulations for their government as may be necessary—not inconsistent with the regulations of the General Grand Chapter.

SEC. 10. No person shall be permitted to take a seat in any State Grand Chapter, as the representative of more than one Chapter ; nor unless he is a member of a subordinate Chapter under that jurisdiction.

ARTICLE III.

Of the Subordinate Chapters.

SECTION 1. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons throughout this jurisdiction shall have a Dispensation, as is provided in section 6th, of the first article, or section 4th, of the second article of this Constitution, or a Charter from the General Grand Chapter, or from some Grand Chapter under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter ; and no Chapter shall be deemed legal without such Dispensation or Charter ; and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden, between any Chapter or any member of it, and any Chapter, or assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened, or holden, without such Charter, or any or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter. But nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any Chapter which was established before the adoption of the Grand Royal Arch Constitution, at Hartford, on the 27th day of January, A. D., 1798.

SEC. 2. Whenever a Charter is issued for instituting a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, with a power in said Charter to open and hold Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons,

the High Priest, King, and Scribe, for the time being, of such Chapter, shall be the Master and Wardens in said Lodges, according to seniority.

- SEC. 3. It is incumbent on the High Priest of every Chapter, as appertaining to his office, duty and dignity, to see that the By-Laws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and the regulations of the Grand Chapter, be duly observed ; that all his subordinate officers perform the duties of their respective stations faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to their companions ; that true and exact records be kept of all the proceedings of the Chapter, by the Secretary ; that the Treasurer keep and render exact and just accounts of all the moneys belonging to the Chapter ; that regular returns be made by the Secretary annually to the Grand Chapter, of the admission of all candidates or members ; and that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter be regularly and punctually paid. The Charter of his Chapter is committed to his special care and charge. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence which in his judgment may require their meeting, and he is to fill the chair when present. It is likewise his duty, together with his King and Scribe, to attend the regular and special meetings of the Grand Chapter, either in person or by proxy.

SEC. 4. No person having been a member of a Chapter shall be admitted a member of any other Chapter under this jurisdiction, until he shall have produced a certificate from the Chapter to which he last belonged, that he was in regular standing, and as such, at his own request, is dismissed and recommended.

SEC. 5. That any worthy companion, from without the jurisdiction of the United States, who may present himself as a Royal Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of his having received that degree, that each and every Chapter under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter have liberty, and they are hereby authorized, to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, on such companions, (who

have not heretofore received them,) to the end that they may be healed and thereby become regular Royal Arch Masons, free of charge.

SEC. 6. That the Subordinate Chapter so conferring said degrees, shall be exempt from paying any dues therefor.

SEC. 7 It shall not be deemed regular for any Chapter to confer the degrees of the Chapter upon any person whose fixed place of abode is within any other State, in which there is a Chapter regularly established, except by the consent of the Chapter nearest the place of residence of said applicant.

Miscellaneous.

SEC. 1. Whenever it shall be inconvenient for the General Grand Officers, or the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priests, respectively, to attend in person, to constitute a new Chapter, and instal the Officers, they shall, severally, have power and authority to appoint some worthy High Priest, or Past High Priest, to perform the necessary ceremonies.

SEC. 2. The Officers of every Chapter under this jurisdiction before they enter upon the exercise of their respective Offices, and also the members of all such Chapters, and every candidate upon his admission into the same, shall take the following obligation, viz: "I, A. B., do promise and swear, that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America."

SEC. 3. This Constitution shall not be altered or amended, unless such alteration or amendment be proposed in writing at one regular meeting of the General Grand Chapter, published among the minutes of the proceedings, and at the next regular meeting receive the approval of two-thirds of the members then present.

I hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Seal of the General Grand Chapter be hereunto affixed.

Dated at the City of Washington, this 27th day of September, 1853, and the year of the Order, 2387.

B. B. FRENCH,
G. G. Secretary.

L. S.

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